■ ENTERTAINMENT / A22

Sharon lost 22 lb in 4 months with lotsa' help from Sen. Kiko

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DOJ dismisses tax raps vs former agri chief

■ BUSINESS/ B8

200,000 RP garments workers risk losing jobs

■ WORLD/ A7

Mammoth quake leaves 2.5M homeless in Pakistan

Joker demands head of nat'l security adviser

By TJ Burgonio and Armand N. Nocum

AFTER CITING NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER Norberto Gonzales in contempt and ordering his detention, Sen. Joker Arroyo now wants him sacked.

The administration senator yesterday twitted Gonzales for admitting before the

JOKER/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Angie assures protesters: No hammer to kill a fly

By Norman Bordadora and Christine Avendaño

BULOK LANG ANG NILALANGAW!

INTERIOR SECRETARY ANgelo "Angie" Reyes yesterday summed up to protesters at a House hearing the essence of President

ANGIE/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, October 13, 2005 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 307 P18 website: www.inq7.net

EDWIN BACASMAS

IS SHE OR ISN'T SHE going to declare emergency rule? That is the question to ask President Arroyo who was photographed during a live TV roundtable discussion on Tuesday.

Palace sets 3 terms for emergency rule

Worsening peace and order, terror attacks, oil crisis

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS KEEPING the declaration of emergency rule as an option to handle a crisis situation that may be triggered by a terrorist attack, a breakdown in peace and order, and a steep surge in oil prices.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday made this admission, but sought to cushion public fears by saying that this option, if exercised, would be on a temporary basis.

"This option is always open, and [Justice] Secretary Raul Gonzalez was open enough to say as a responsible Cabinet member [that] he has been making preparations on things that he thinks might happen," Ermita told reporters at his weekly briefing in Malacañang.

"The situation might be OK today but a day or two later, [it] could be different. I suppose the framers of the Constitution have certain provisions on how to address different situations," he said.

Ermita cited three factors that could force the President's hand to push the emergency rule button—terrorism, oil prices and peace and order—all of which the government had declared in the past few weeks as emerging threats to economic and political stability.

"I think the objective is to be able to control the situation in a manner that will give a result that will be better for the greater majority of the people," he said.

PALACE/ A4

GMA can't assume powers on her own

By Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

ANALYSIS

OUR EXPERIENCE WITH RULE by one man started in 1972 with the imposition of martial law and the Supreme Court's later decision in Javellana v. Executive Secretary. [**Questioned whether the 1973 Constitution was duly ratified or not, the Supreme Court ruled that it was a political question and beyond its jurisdiction, and thus became the basis for the Marcos constitutional dictatorship.—Ed**] It did not end until the Edsa event of 1986.

Since then, however, people periodically get jittery about a possible repetition of the experience. Every once in a while, the specter of emergency powers or of martial rule is seen as hovering around.

Emergency powers and martial rule are two distinct weapons in the presidential armory. However, provided that constitutional rules are conscientiously followed, we can live with them with a minimum of discomfort. Unfortunately, it is when these powers are activated that constitutional rules are imperiled.

There seems to be some confusion in the air now. It is said that Malacañang has given the assurance that there will be no martial law but that emergency rule is a possibility. Critics, on the other hand, are saying that it will be martial rule but under a euphemism.

For his part, former President Fidel V. Ramos classifies all talk of this kind as bovine excretion.

GMA CAN'T/ A4

'GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY?'

NorthRail contract faces derailment

By TJ Burgonio

(Second of three parts)

An **I-TEAM** *Report*

Project Editor
Fernando del Mundo

THE $503-MILLION NORTHRAIL transit system promises to bring modern and affordable facilities for travel-weary commuters across congested suburban cities and towns north of Manila.

It is a dream derailed.

Not many are surprised why the railway—touted as a flagship project of President Macapagal-Arroyo when she took power in 2001—hasn't gotten off the track.

From the beginning, the project of North Luzon Railway Corp. (NorthRail) and China National Machinery and Equipment Corp. (Group), or CNMEG, has been bedeviled by false starts, and worse, by allegations of anomaly.

One railway expert told the INQUIRER that the absence of technical details on the project in effect granted "a blank check" to CNMEG. "It's a contractor's dream contract," he said.

NorthRail and CNMEG signed the agreement to build the railway in December 2003, with China's Export-Import Bank committing to provide a $400-million soft loan and Manila earmarking a counterpart fund of $103 million.

The first phase of the four-stage

NORTHRAIL/ A6

Back to PNR's old glory if project stays on track

By Volt Contreras and Clarissa Batino

THE INK HAS LONG DRIED AND groundwork has begun for the NorthRail project, a train system spanning Central Luzon designed to provide smooth, cheaper rides for the hundreds of thousands whose daily grind starts and ends in rush-hour traffic jams.

If plans ran on track, the line would connect Metro Manila and Clark in Pampanga via a long-unused route of the decrepit, state-owned Philippine National Railway.

It would have cars for cargo to bring produce to and from Metro Manila. The fare will be affordable and the schedule reliable, according to Jose Cortes, president of NorthRail Corp. It will even have an airport service from Fort Bonifacio to Clark airport as originally planned.

Declared as a priority project

BACK/ A6

TRUY MACCUMPOH MINDANAO BUREAU

DANCES FOR OUR LADY. The month-long festivities in Zamboanga City to celebrate the feast of the Virgen del Pilar on Oct. 12 include a street dancing competition, which features costumes bursting with colors and gaiety. And there's much to celebrate. For Our Lady of Pilar is credited with saving the city from pirates during the Spanish colonial era. The well-loved story goes that the miraculous lady roused from deep slumber the "guardia civil" guarding Fort del Pilar to warn them of the impending attack from the sea.

RP grants MILF own gov't, charter

By Gerry Lirio

THE GOVERNMENT HAS AGREED in principle to allow a Bangsamoro government to draft its own charter, impose its own tax system, form and maintain legal and financial institutions necessary for the development of an expanded, progressive Muslim Mindanao region.

The government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front panels reached this consensus during the ninth exploratory talks held on Sept. 15-16 in Kuala Lumpur, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER from the government panel.

Titled "Consensus points on the stand on governance of the ancestral domain aspect of the Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001," one document revealed the creation of a Bangsamoro government with both political and economic powers over Muslim Mindanao.

The concessions wangled during the talks were regarded as the most substantial since the Moro separatist movement emerged in the southern Philippines in the early 1970s. President Macapagal-Arroyo had described the results of the discussions as a "strong breakthrough" in resolving the decades-old conflict.

Reached yesterday for comment, Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, confirmed the accord, but expressed surprise that it had been leaked, saying the two panels had agreed to keep things under wraps until the formal peace talks to be held later this year.

The documents showed that

RP GRANTS/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: At 2 p.m. yesterday, the eye of Typhoon "Nando" was located based on satellite and surface data at 1,020 km east northeast of Northern Luzon with maximum sustained winds of 160 kph near the center and gustiness up to 195 kph. It is moving north northwest at 03 kph.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/12/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

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Tax raps vs Yap dismissed

By Armand N. Nocum and Michelle V. Remo

THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST BIG-TIME tax evaders may have suffered a setback when the justice department yesterday dismissed for "insufficient evidence" the Bureau of Internal Revenue's tax evasion case against former agriculture secretary Arthur Yap, considered the biggest fish to be caught in the net of the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) program.

But this disappointment was offset by two Department of Justice resolutions recommending the filing of tax evasion charges against entertainment talent manager Douglas Quijano and the owner of Glo Herbal health products.

Yap and his father, Domingo, who were officers of a family-owned company, were accused of undervaluing the purchase price of a piece of property to evade paying almost P4 million in taxes.

The BIR claimed that the Yaps produced a questionable deed of sale for the property showing that the purchase amount was P1 million, for which they allegedly got away by paying only P18,750 in taxes.

Forged signature

In its resolution, the DOJ said that the BIR was unable to rebut Yap's argument that if the Yaps really intended to evade the payment of higher taxes, they would not have increased the value of the lot from P12.7 million to P14.2 million in two deeds of sale.

The DOJ also said that the BIR failed to overturn Yap's claim that the deed of sale showing the property to be worth P1 million was not his and that the BIR failed to have the document checked by the National Bureau of Investigation.

The DOJ said "no tax evasion case can be filed against respondents on the basis of a document whose genuineness and authenticity is, at best, questionable."

"The BIR's speculation and conjecture simply cannot take the place of solid evidence and we will consistently reject the indictment of individuals without the proper evidentiary basis," the DOJ said.

But State Prosecutor Sebastian F. Caponong Jr. said the BIR could again file the case against the Yaps since the issue of the classification of the property, which determines the amount of tax due, has not been fully established.

The DOJ resolution said that "a prior determination of tax due should first be made by the proper office before respondents can held liable for tax evasion."

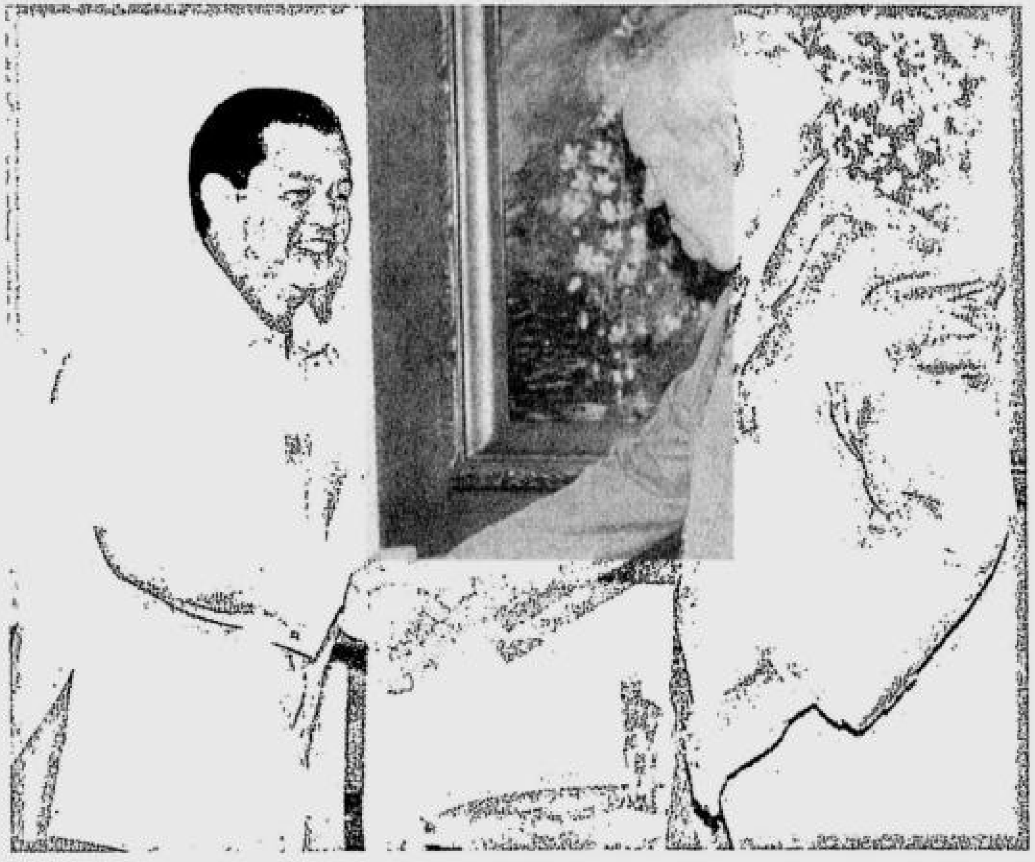
Otherwise, a charge of tax evasion on that basis would be premature, said Caponong, who wrote the decision.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno said the case could indeed be re-filed if the BIR is able "introduce additional, supplemental evidence."

In another resolution, the DOJ said it found "probable cause to indict" Quijano for four counts of tax evasion, because of the failure of his Harte Beest Entertainment Corp. to declare and pay P13 million in taxes from 2000 to 2003.

A third DOJ resolution found that there was legal basis to file tax evasion charges against Renato E. Herrera, owner of the Glo Herbal health products, for the non-declaration and payment of taxes amounting to P150 million in taxes from 2000 to P2003.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan said in an interview that the filing of cases against Glo Herbal and Quijano was "very encouraging" for other cases under the RATE program. With a report from Cynthia D. Balana



NO NOLI BASHER. Vice President Noli de Castro welcomes Darryl Norman Johnson, US Embassy chargè d'affaires, during a courtesy call recently at the Bonifacio Hall in Malacañang. Johnson briefly came out of retirement to head the US Embassy in Manila until a permanent replacement arrives. He replaced the controversial Joseph Mussomeli, who did not have kind words for the vice president, whom he described in a report to Washington as a "lightweight" who did not speak English well. De Castro said he could not even remember Mussomeli's face.

Antigraft adviser offers to help pick next Ombudsman

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE CHOICE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S next chief graft-buster will determine whether the Arroyo administration will be able to retain the services of anticorruption advocate and consultant Tony Kwok.

At the same time, the former head of Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption offered to help the government select a new Ombudsman who will carry on the fight against a perceived rising tide of corruption in the country.

Kwok made this declaration yesterday in the wake of Ombudsman Simeon V. Marcelo's decision to step down next month.

"Whether I stay will depend a lot on who the next Ombudsman will be, if we see eye to eye," Kwok said in a telephone interview. "There's no point [in staying on] if I'm just wasting my time."

Kwok was recruited by Marcelo two years ago to help the Arroyo administration fight corruption under a program funded by the European Union. The two have worked closely together since.

Kwok admitted being "shocked" by the news of Marcelo's resignation and seriously considered quitting, fearing that the Ombudsman's departure was prompted by political issues. But Marcelo, who steps down at the end of next month, reassured Kwok that poor health was his only reason for leaving.

Because of this, the man who is credited with cleaning up the once notoriously corrupt Hong Kong bureaucracy said he will "keep an open mind" and continue working with the Philippine government as long as he is still wanted.

"I'm not here to make a living," he said, stressing that his motive comes only from his strong anticorruption ethic. "I have not received a single peso from the government."

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Noli says he won't block poll protest

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE CASTRO YESTERDAY said he would not block the retabulation and correction of alleged manifest errors in the election returns from at least three provinces identified by former Sen. Loren Legarda where massive cheating allegedly took place during the 2004 elections.

De Castro said he had full confidence in the proceedings of the Supreme Court, sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, which earlier rejected de Castro's motion to dismiss the electoral protest filed by Legarda.

In its Oct. 4 resolution, the PET also ordered that the correction of manifest errors in the questioned election returns for the provinces of Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Surigao del Sur begin on Oct. 18.

De Castro said he was confident the recount would eventually result in the dismissal of the protest filed against him and reaffirm his victory in the election.

"It is to the best interest of the people for the protest to be resolved at the soonest time possible. Therefore, I will support any action on the part of the Tribunal that would expedite the conclusion of the protest," he said.

But Legarda doubted de Castro's sincerity in seeking a quick resolution to the case, citing the number of motions filed by de Castro seeking to dismiss her election protest, which the PET had all denied.

"Now that the Presidential Electoral Tribunal had shot down all of Mr. De Castro's dilatory tactics, he is now trying to convince the people that he's aching for the recount of votes to commence immediately," Legarda said.

She noted de Castro's submission of numerous motions which the PET had all denied," she stressed.

"This pronouncement of Mr. De Castro would have been believable had he made it right after I filed my protest. Also, it would have been believable if he had not wasted one year with his dilatory tactics. That's hypocritical of him," she added.

VP defends '06 budget

THE OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT YESterday said the proposed budget for Vice President Noli de Castro is justified and will be able to withstand scrutiny.

"We would like to assure everyone that the OVP budget submitted to Congress by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) itself is not bloated and, if approved, would translate to better public service for all Filipinos," said Atty. Rodolfo Ma. Ponferrada, de Castro's assistant chief of staff.

Under the proposed budget for year 2006, the OVP would get a budget allocation of P130.776 million. Both houses of Congress are currently deliberating on the proposed 2006 budget.

Former Sen. Loren Legarda criticized de Castro's budget as "bloated" and insensitive in the face of the fiscal crisis which has forced the government to impose higher taxes on the public.

Among the items criticized in the OVP's budget is the P50 million increase in maintenance and other operating expenses.

But Ponferrada claimed that the bulk of the increase (almost P30 million) is earmarked for assistance to indigent patients in hospitals, livelihood programs, comprehensive integrated delivery of social service programs, medical assistance, death and funeral benefits of the victims of calamities and fortuitous events and other forms of financial assistance.

Ponferrada said this was warranted by the Vice President's increased role in the government. De Castro is also alternate chair of National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Workers, and price monitoring czar.

PNP chief wants bounty for Red leaders revived

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE YESTERDAY SOUGHT THE REvival of the bounty system for the arrest of leaders and members of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its military arm, the New People's Army, following a spate of attacks by communist rebels.

The Philippine National Police recommended yesterday the lifting of the suspension of the reward system for the capture of the communist rebels who are facing criminal cases.

"The PNP is recommending that the rewards (system for the capture) of CPP-NPA members which (was) suspended before as a confidence-building measure in the negotiations now be lifted in view of continuing terrorist attacks," police spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said in a statement.

The police and military consider the CPP-NPA as a terrorist organization. The CPP-NPA has waged the longest-running communist insurgency movement in Southeast Asia.

Bataoil, however, clarified that the reward system was against communist rebels who have been charged with criminal offenses and was not against a person's being a member of the rebel group.

"This is also consistent with the lifting of the Jasig (Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees) and between the GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) and NDF (National Democratic Front) panels," the statement added.

In August, the government suspended the immunity guarantees of some 97 NDF members, including CPP founder Jose Ma. Sison and NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni, following the collapse of peace talks with the rebels.

Bad dengue season is over – DOH

THE DENGUE SEASON IS OFFICIALLY over, but not after 280 people died and 21,537 others were infected.

"This was a bad year for dengue," Dr. Eric Tayag, chief government epidemiologist, told the INQUIRER Tuesday, shortly after the Department of Health released its final report on the virus' rampage this year.

A total of 21,817 people came down with dengue between Jan. 1 and Oct. 2, exceeding the 20,000 cases projected by the DOH. But this was still a far cry from the 40,000 cases recorded during the dengue crisis of 1998.

Tayag attributed the steep rise to the fact that the country was due for another spike in victims, based on dengue's pattern of attacking more viciously on a three-year cycle.

Tayag said most worrisome was this year's 1.3-percent case fatality ratio, or the relation of deaths to the total number of cases. He said only 0.8 percent was registered last year.

Northern Mindanao was worst hit by the mosquito-borne disease with 3,301 victims, 78 of whom died, according to the three-page DOH report. Central Visayas had the second highest number of fatalities at 66 out of 2,234 victims.

Metro Manila came in third with 29 deaths out of 3,228 cases, while Central Luzon had 19 fatalities out of 2,085 victims.

In the past four weeks, a clustering of cases (or the occurrence of three or more infections in one barangay) was recorded in Manila, Malabon, Valenzuela, Caloocan and Quezon cities in Metro Manila.

Clusters were also noted in Misamis Oriental and Cagayan de Oro in Northern Mindanao, according to the DOH. There were neither hotspots nor outbreaks during the same four-week period.

Most of the victims (53 percent) this year were male belonging mostly to the 1-9 age bracket (42 percent).

"This year we had possibly a more virulent strain considering the number of deaths," Tayag said.

A person can be infected by any of four strains of "aedes aegypti" mosquitoes known only as I, II, III and IV. A person is immune only to the strain he or she got but not to the rest.

Tayag said more people would have been infected had it not been for the measures put up by the DOH. Among these was the establishment of "express lanes" in key hospitals to specifically deal with dengue cases.

Health officials also conducted an aggressive information campaign, including one that discouraged people from resorting to fumigation to battle the virus. Tayag explained the measure would only drive away, not kill, dengue-carrying mosquitoes. *Christian V. Esguerra*

RP war orphans seek recognition as Japanese

TOKYO – A GROUP OF JAPANESE-FILIPINOS born in the Philippines before or during World War II arrived in Tokyo on Tuesday to seek family registration as Japanese citizens, media reports said.

The seven men and women were left in the Philippines after their Japanese parents were deported following Japan's defeat in the war and have not been recognized as Japanese citizens despite possessing documents proving their parents' forced repatriation, according to Kyodo News agency.

"I feel very happy because I've reached the country of my father, Japan," Sumiko Arichi, who was left behind after her father was killed in an accident before the war, told national broadcaster NHK.

Because Arichi does not have a Filipino birth certificate, the Philippines has refused to recognize her as a citizen, forcing Arichi to travel to Tokyo on a temporary travel document, NHK said.

The seven will file for registry at the Tokyo Family Court on Wednesday and participate in a symposium before going back to the Philippines on Sunday. If granted registration, their children and grandchildren will be given the right to work in Japan, according to NHK.

Some 5,200 war orphans left behind in China have returned to Japan since the 1980s. Many have been helped by Japanese government programs to match them with their long-lost relatives and pay for their resettlement.

About 800 orphans from World War II are still thought to be living in the Philippines. *AP*

RP sailor missing

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA – AUSTRALIAN rescue personnel continued an air and sea search Wednesday for a 33-year-old Filipino sailor who fell from a ship off Australia's east coast, an official said.

The man, whose identity was not immediately released, was reported missing on Tuesday afternoon after falling from a foreign-registered bulk carrier near Gladstone, about 400 kilometers north of Brisbane in Queensland state, according to Tracy Jiggins, a spokeswoman for the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

The search, which included six boats, five airplanes and one helicopter, began late Tuesday and resumed at first light Wednesday, Jiggins said. The weather in the area was "not too bad," he said, adding that the search was expected to last through Wednesday, possibly longer. *AP*

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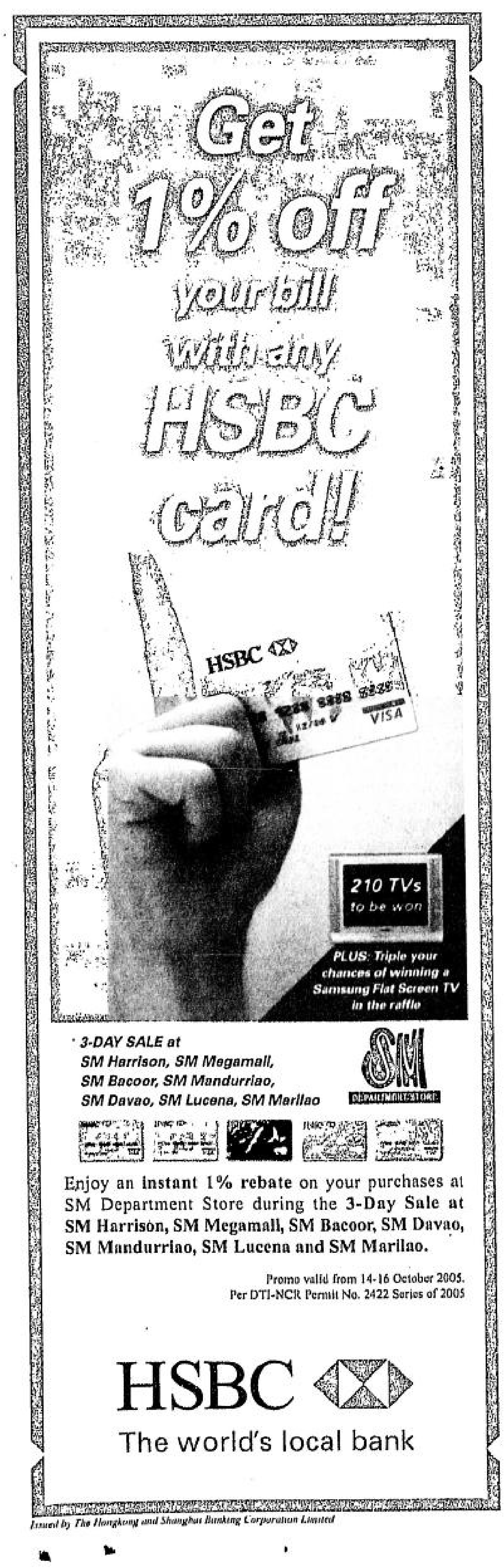

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Palace sets 3 terms for emergency rule

From page A1

Quoting two opposition leaders, the INQUIRER reported late last month that the Department of Justice had prepared a draft proclamation that stopped short of an imposition of martial law.

But Gonzalez denied this, saying he and his staff had merely been studying the idea of a government takeover of vital industries if rising oil prices would trigger an economic crisis.

Subsidy

Ermita stressed that the government was not taking over private property just to show that it was a better manager.

He cited as an example Gonzalez's proposal for the government to take over oil firms if oil prices soar sky-high.

"The different agencies will take into consideration [whether the government] is ready to subsidize [oil] at a certain point. Should that happen, the reason for this is to be able to control the situation so that the problem can be addressed in a manner that is manageable," he said.

But he added that he was "not a financial wizard" and could not say whether the government could subsidize [oil prices]."

Ermita said the public should not worry too much about the declaration of emergency rule because it would end soon enough.

"That is not permanent, anyway. Even the Constitution provides a time frame for whatever action the government takes if an emergency situation happens," he said.

No fear

Ermita said that while the government could not blame anyone for speculating on the President's motives in declaring emergency rule, it did not mean that keeping the option open was intended to make the public "afraid."

While conceding that Gonzalez's draft proclamation on emergency rule had caused "uneasiness" in the public, Ermita defended his colleague's initiative.

"It is only proper for [Cabinet officials] to do something that they have to do in case we have to prepare for something," he said of the draft proclamation that had supposedly not reached the President's desk.

Ermita also said he did not see why Gonzalez should be compelled to disclose the contents of the draft proclamation, especially to the opposition, not only because it did not have Ms Arroyo's imprimatur but also because it would "unnecessarily cause uneasiness and uncertainty."

Ping's warning

But opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson cautioned Gonzalez against recommending the declaration of emergency rule to the President.

Lacson told reporters that Gonzalez should not play with the people's fate: "We should warn [him] that he is treading on dangerous grounds here, because he might be pushing us Filipinos to the edge. They (Malacañang) might be surprised one day when chaos breaks out in the country.

"If they insist on proclaiming a state of emergency, which is also tantamount to undeclared martial law, they might stoke mayhem instead of quelling it."

Lacson recalled that he and other allies of deposed President Joseph Estrada were charged with rebellion and ordered arrested without warrants by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez in the aftermath of the Labor Day siege on Malacañang in 2001.

"We questioned it before the Supreme Court, and [the tribunal] rebuffed the declaration of a state of rebellion at that time," he said.

Vigilance

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan called for more vigilance in view of persistent rumors that the administration was merely waiting for the proper time to declare a state of emergency.

"The best attitude to take given all these rumors is to remain vigilant. Part of this vigilance is not to allow ourselves to fall into the trap of believing rumors and not to allow ourselves to be unwitting tools in the spreading of the same," Pangilinan said in a text message.

Lacson voiced doubt that Gonzalez prepared the draft emergency proclamation on his own, as he had claimed.

"It's highly impossible that he was acting alone when he prepared the draft. Even the executive secretary, while denying that he knew about the planned declaration, his own staff said there is a copy of the proclamation right in [Ermita's] office," Lacson said, adding:

"Who are they fooling? They cannot fool us all the time, and they cannot cover lies with more lies."

No way

But Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, Armed Forces deputy chief of staff, said in a phone interview: "I would like to assure you there's no talk [within the military] about martial law or emergency rule.

"We don't believe it will come to pass. The current situation does not warrant it. At present, the level of violence and lawlessness does not warrant the institution of a state of emergency."

Bagasin, the third highest military official, said the AFP was not preoccupied with martial law rumors.

But he admitted that a declaration of martial law or emergency rule would be a "political decision" made solely by Malacañang, and the military would "just be on the receiving end."

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga, who was in Cebu City yesterday for a field visit of the AFP Central Command, did not respond to phone calls.

When asked for comment about the martial law and emergency rule issue, Senga sent a brief text message: "*Tsismis* (Rumors)."

No truth to it

Earlier in the day, Brig. Gen. Jose Honrado, chief of the AFP Civil Relations Service, issued a statement saying: "There is no truth to what the so-called prophets of doom are continuing to preach, as these unscrupulous individuals and groups are insisting that the declaration of martial law is in the offing and that military personnel are hatching a coup plot to overthrow the government."

In a phone interview, Honrado was asked whether the military would support a martial law declaration.

He replied: "We cannot answer that question because the preconditions do not exist. There should be anarchy in the streets, but this does not exist."

The Command Group, the highest body in the Philippine National Police, is unlikely to recommend to Malacañang a declaration of a state of emergency or martial law at this time, a top PNP official told the INQUIRER on Tuesday night.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official said: "The government will just be equated with the Marcos regime, and we should avoid that. The police will not recommend or encourage such a move now. I believe that's the belief of the whole police force."

But not encouraging a declaration of a state of emergency does not mean refusing to support it once it is made, the official said. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Luige A. del Puerto***

GMA can't assume powers on her own

From page A1

Bovine excretion or not, what is the difference between the two?

First, how and when are emergency powers activated? Our law tells us: "In times of war or other national emergency, the Congress may, by law, authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to such restrictions as it may prescribe, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy. Unless sooner withdrawn by resolution of the Congress, such powers shall cease upon the next adjournment thereof."

It is clear then that the President cannot assume emergency powers on her own. The authorization must come from a law passed by Congress. And Congress can give her such powers only when there is a war or an emergency which has an effect on the nation analogous with the effect of war.

Emergency is in Palace

In 1989, for instance, Congress passed an Emergency Powers Law—Republic Act No. 6826—to enable then President Corazon Aquino to find an "end to [the Mindanao] rebellion and the soonest rehabilitation of the economy and the nation " as well as the optimization of "efforts to carry out the difficult task of economic reconstruction."

But now cynics will probably say that the emergency is in Malacañang!

What powers to delegate to the President, however, depends on Congress. Under this provision, the President may be authorized to exercise "powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy."

The Constitution does not specify what powers to give. The powers can be as broad or as narrow as Congress is willing to give. It can include the power to rule by decree; but limits can be imposed by Congress on such decree powers.

Congress can also specify the duration of the emergency powers and Congress may withdraw the powers anytime.

Martial law

How about martial law? How does it start? What can it do? The law on the subject is no longer the same as when President Ferdinand Marcos had it.

It is still the President and the President alone who imposes martial law either on the entire country or on any part of the country. But President Macapagal-Arroyo can declare martial law only "in case of invasion or rebellion when public safety requires it."

More importantly, however, what can President Arroyo do in time of martial rule? Her powers then do not come from Congress but from the Constitution. The Constitution allows her to do whatever public safety requires.

True, the constitutional rights of individuals remain in effect. But the President exercises martial law powers as Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces. This means that she has the military at her beck and call.

Who can stop her? Congress can, voting jointly, by a majority vote.

This means that much will depend on the sentiment of Congress. Martial law can also be stopped by the Supreme Court, upon the initiative of any citizen, on the ground that neither invasion nor rebellion exists or that it is unnecessary.

Whether it will be emergency powers or martial rule, one cannot help but be reminded of the words of a Supreme Court justice in the time of Marcos.

In one decision, the Supreme Court justice solemnly pronounced these words: "In times of war or national emergency ... the judiciary should be less jealous of its power and more trusting of the Executive ... For their part, ... the people can only trust and pray that, giving him their own loyalty and patriotism, the President will not fail them."

There will always be those who will simply respond "Praise the Lord!"

GMA divides nation in 2

It is good to recall, however, that our democratic structure is not designed primarily to achieve efficiency. It is designed principally to prevent tyranny.

Hence, our structure is built on the dynamics of trust and distrust. Trust—we elect people and allow them to make some decisions for us. Distrust—through the Bill of Rights and checks and balances we have instituted checks on the exercise of official power.

When an administration asks for emergency or martial powers, it equivalently asks for the weakening of checks and balances. Essentially it says, "Trust us, trust us!" It is like the reported prayer of De Gaulle to the Sacred Heart—"Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, put all your trust in me!"

The current concern about special powers for President Arroyo divides the nation into two camps: Those who trust her and her close aides, and those who do not—perhaps still along the lines drawn during the impeachment debates.

Where do you line up now?

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 13, 2005
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Rom 3:21-29**
Gospel:	**Luke 11:47-54**

Jesus said to the Pharisees, "A curse is on you, for you build memorials to the prophets your ancestors killed. So you approve and agree with what your ancestors did. Is it not so? They got rid of the prophets, and now you can build!"

(The Wisdom of God also said,) "I will send prophets and apostles and this people will kill and persecute some of them. But the present generation will have to answer for the blood of all the prophets that has been shed since the foundation of the world, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah, who was murdered between the altar and the sanctuary. Yes, I tell you, the people of this time will have to answer for them all.

"A curse is on you, teachers of the Law, for you have taken the key of knowledge. You yourselves have not entered, and you prevented others from entering."

As Jesus left that place, the teachers of the Law and the Pharisees began to harass him, asking him endless questions, setting traps to catch him in something he might say.

Commentary

Jesus continues extending his curses not just to the Pharisees, but to the teachers of the Law who make life unbearable for so many people, interpreting the law so that heavy requirements and burdens fall upon so many and then they do not lift a finger to help them. There is no compassion, no spirit and no concern in them. They are cursed again for building memorials to those of their ancestors (in unfaithfulness) killed and they agree with those who went before them—'they got rid of the prophets for them, not they can build!' And then he turns on everyone—calling them to account for the murders of so many who spoke the truth on behalf of those in need of justice and life. And the curse is upon those who had knowledge of the law and prophets, the keys of the kingdom but never entered it. The result of Jesus' words are endless questions, traps, harassment. And what of us—do we kill the prophets, silence the truth, make life unbearable for so many and do not raise a finger to help anyone? Is our God cursing us today?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

RP grants MILF own gov't, charter

From page A1

two panels had reached a consensus, or "an agreement in principle" as Kabalu put it, on 10 major points, ranging from the territorial to political and administrative powers of a "Bangsamoro juridical" entity.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "Records of the negotiation are confidential and have not reached the Palace."

New grouping

No name has been given yet to the proposed entity, but Kabalu said the new grouping would absorb the existing five-province Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao as well as certain Muslim-dominated areas in North Cotabato, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur and Zamboanga provinces during a transition period of around five years.

Philippine negotiator Rudy B. Rodil signed the document for the government and lawyer Musib Buat, for the MILF.

The Palace had opted not to disclose the results of the September talks, except to say that President Macapagal-Arroyo welcomed what she considered a "breakthrough" in the talks.

In a joint statement released after the talks, Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr., chair of the government panel, and Mohagher Iqbal, chair of the MILF panel, said the two parties had "successfully concluded" the most difficult hurdle in the "ancestral domain" agenda.

Both parties refused to give other details.

The document said the parties "agree that the entrenchment of the Bangsamoro homeland as a territorial space aims to secure the identity and posterity of the Bangsamoro people, protect their proprietary rights and resources and establish a system of governance suitable and acceptable to them as a distinct dominant people."

Most controversial items

The parties will respect the freedom of choice of the indigenous people, the document added.

Of the 10-point agreement, Items No. 4 and No. 6 are expected to be most controversial. Item No. 4 is about greater political autonomy while Item No. 6 is about tax powers.

Item No. 4 states, among others, that "the parties agree that the Bangsamoro juridical entity shall be empowered to build, develop, and maintain institutions (such as civil service, electoral, financial and banking, education, legislation, legal, economic, police and internal security force, judicial system, and correctional institutions) necessary for developing a progressive Bangsamoro society."

Item No. 6 states that the "parties agree to empower the Bangsamoro juridical entity to legislate and administer revenue-generating measures through taxation, public borrowings (foreign and domestic), licensing and income government from government investments."

Both items would be tackled in a more comprehensive compact later, the document said.

Told that these things would happen only by amending the 1987 Constitution, Kabalu said: "All these things will take place in accordance with legal processes, ranging from amending the Charter to consulting the people of Mindanao through, say, a referendum."

Jose Abueva, chair of the Consultative Commission, said he was not aware of this agreement between the two panels. But his private group Citizens Movement for Federal Philippines has submitted to the consultative body a proposal to adopt a federal system of government.

In its proposal, Abueva's group proposed the creation of 12 federal states, one of which is to be known the Bangsamoro state, covering what is now known as ARMM.

Abueva said he and his private group would be willing to talk about the matter with any of the two panels.

Constitutional commission

The document said the parties had also agreed on the establishment of a constitutional commission tasked to write the organic charter of the Bangsamoro juridical entity, the modalities of which shall be specified in the comprehensive compact.

Budget powers

Another document prepared by the technical working group on governance said the MILF "does not intend to monopolize the choice of representatives" to the body, adding that "professionals and other sectors will be involved" and that "it will be done through democratic processes."

Lawyer Manuel Ibañez signed the joint technical document for the government and Prof. Habib Macaayong for the MILF.

The parties have also agreed the Bangsamoro juridical entity should be provided powers over budgeting and allocation of funds for governmental functions, development and services.

"Such powers, which will be spelled out in detail in the comprehensive compact, will include financial control for government accounting and auditing systems and standards suitable to the Bangsamoro juridical entity," the Ibañez-Macaayong document added.

Historically, according to the MILF technical working group on governance, during the sultanate period, the Bangsamoro people had already been imposing tariffs and customs vis-à-vis commercial trade.

Interisland trade

"The Bangsamoro (should be given) authority to impose tariff on interisland goods," the MILF technical group said.

"What is happening now is that the products from Mindanao are strictly controlled in the ports of Cebu and Manila because they are competing with local products. The governing entity should control the products from Luzon and Visayas through the imposition of tariffs," it added.

On the transfer and exercise of devolved powers, the Ibañez-Macaayong document said the MILF acknowledged that these could not easily be relinquished in full to the Bangsamoro juridical entity upon entrenchment.

"It would be presumptuous for the MILF, through the Bangsamoro juridical entity, to assume that it could exercise all the powers of governance immediately as it will involve preparation," the document said.

"During the transition period, powers will be devolved and Philippine laws will continue to operate as may be relevant, pending enactment of laws by the legislative body of the Bangsamoro juridical entity," it added.

IN THE KNOW

Muslims in Mindanao

NSO CENSUS 2000:

Nine in every ten persons were Muslims

Majority of the total household population in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao were Muslims or Islam believers. It comprised more than 90 percent of the total household population, followed by Roman Catholic (five percent) and Philippine Episcopal Church with more than a single percent. The remaining three percent were either Evangelicals, Iglesia ni Cristo or with other religions.

ARMM population= 2.876M; + 90% of ARMM = 2.6M *Maricar Tolosa, PDI Research*

UN paints grim picture of condition of women

By Christian V. Esguerra

AT LEAST ONE IN EVERY FIVE women will become a victim of rape or attempted rape, and one out of three will be "beaten, coerced into sex ....by a family member or an acquaintance" in her lifetime, according to the State of the World Population 2005 report.

The report, released yesterday by the United Nations Population Fund, painted another grim picture of women's condition worldwide.

"Gender-based violence is perhaps the most widespread and socially tolerated human rights violations," said the UNFPA report.

"Violence kills and disables as many women between the ages of 15 and 44 as cancer," it said.

In the Philippines, police records show an average of 20 cases of violence against women every day, said lawyer Evelyn Dunuan of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women.

Wife battering

Rape figured in 17 percent of all cases of violence reported to the police last year while 48 percent of cases consisted of "wife-battering" and other forms of physical abuse, Dunuan said.

Domestic violence was the most common physical affront on women worldwide, victimizing 10 percent of the female population in some countries and 69 percent in others, the report said.

"Sexual violence may involve physical and psychological intimidation, unwanted sexual advances or acts, date and marital rape, and blackmail," it said.

"It may also play on a woman's financial insecurity, through threats of job dismissal or exploitation such as the offer of food or shelter in return for sex," the UNFPA said.

In a videotaped message at a press briefing yesterday, UNFPA executive director Thoraya Ahmen Obaid said about half of the 40 million people known to be afflicted with HIV-AIDS worldwide were female.

Female face of AIDS

"Worldwide, the face of (the virus) is increasingly female and increasingly young," she said, noting that there are now 1.7 billion women aged 15 to 49 in the world.

Obaid stressed that addressing the violence committed against women was important if countries are to dramatically reduce the poverty rate worldwide.

"It is time to call for action to free women of the discrimination, violence and poor health they face in their daily lives," she said.

"This will unleash the power of half of humanity to contribute to economic growth," she said.

With an estimated 529,000 women dying every year from pregnancy-related causes, experts said it was important for governments to implement sound reproductive health policies.

Obaid said reproductive health problems, including HIV-AIDS, were the leading causes of death and illness among women aged between 15 and 44 worldwide. She said the condition translated to more than 250 million years in lost "productive life."

Pro-choice groups urged the Philippine government to be more aggressive in the implementation of its reproductive health programs.

Part of the Millennium Development Plan of the Arroyo administration is to reduce the current 2.3-percent population growth rate to 1.9 percent by 2010.

It also aims to provide access to reproductive health services to 60 percent of Filipinos this year, 80 percent by 2010, and 100 percent five years after.

"We have a problem and it's time to address it boldly," said Dr. Zahidul Huque, the UNFPA country representative.

The UNFPA report said that the "denial of contraceptive protection" could be considered a form of sexual violence.

Farm girls turn to prostitution, want GMA to know

By Blanche S. Rivera

SHE HAS THE BURNT SKIN AND sturdy frame of a farm worker. Last month, Gina (not her real name) left the rice fields of Montalban to work as a GRO in a Caloocan night club so she could earn enough money to buy medicines for her 11-year-old daughter.

GRO, or guest relations officer, is a euphemism for bar girl.

"I came out so the President will know what is happening to women like us. She is also a woman," said Gina, 29, who was presented by the Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women at a press conference yesterday in advance of the commemoration of Rural Women's Day on Oct. 15.

Amihan claimed that farming women in Rizal, Quezon, Pampanga and other provinces have been reduced to prostitution "to save their families from starvation."

It said those working in the coconut plantations of Bicol have resorted to giving sexual favors to the plantation guards whenever they are caught stealing the nuts.

"They have nothing with which to plow the fields, and yet we hear of P728 million in fertilizer funds going to congressmen and governors," said Amihan chair Carmen Buena.

Amihan, which claims to have members in 32 provinces, said accounts of rural women selling their bodies were becoming more and more frequent because of poverty in the countryside.

There are around 23 million rural women in the Philippines. There are an estimated 800,000 prostituted women and children in the country. Many of them come from the provinces.

Amihan yesterday joined other groups calling for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo with the launch of a signature campaign. Gina and two other Amihan members from Quezon were the first to sign the petition.

Gina said her family earned about 5 kilograms of rice for a week's work in the upland rice farms of Montalban. She also hires herself out as a laundry woman for an additional two kgs of rice. She said her family survives on "*lugaw*" (rice broth), eating only once a day.

If her husband is lucky, he might get an additional P70 a day for carrying vegetables from the mountains to the market. Gina also chops wood for charcoal and is paid P15 for every 100 pieces of chopped wood.

When her eldest daughter contracted urinary tract infection in August, the mother of five had to go back to the job she left years ago. She had worked as a dancer in Caloocan, where she earned up to P700 a night.

"That was just for a weekend, but I can't say I will not do it again. I don't know what will happen to my children. Life is very hard," said Gina, who covered her face with a shirt as she told her tale.

Buena recounted the story of Sarah (not her real name) of Pampanga. A single parent with four kids, Sarah has admitted to engaging in paid sex in exchange for a few kilos of rice and grocery items.

Her father's two-hectare field was sold when the old man became ill. Left without a field to farm to support her family, Sarah resorted to prostitution.

"She's scared that she could be pushed into it again," Buena said.

Sarah was unable to appear at the press conference because one of her children was sick, said Buena.

PAO seeks extradition of soldier in Ninoy slay

By Nelson F. Flores

THE PUBLIC ATTORNEY'S OFFICE YESTERday asked the Sandiganbayan to order the arrest and extradition of a former Army captain believed to be hiding in the United States, in a bid to reopen the trial in which 16 soldiers were convicted of double murder in the slaying of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. and his alleged communist assassin 22 years ago.

PAO chief Persida Rueda Acosta said she was making the petition on behalf of the convicts, who had appealed for her help through Dante Jimenez, chairperson of the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption.

Only 15 of the convicts remain at the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa following the death several years ago of Brig. Gen.Luther Custodio, the highest military officer convicted in the case.

In her four-page motion, Acosta asked the court to issue a new warrant against former Army Capt. Felipe Valerio and to order the Department of Justice to initiate extradition procedures so he can be brought back to the Philippines to stand trial. She said she had "reliable information" Valerio was in Seattle, Washington.

Drastic move

"This is a drastic move to reopen the case so that the court can arrive at a complete determination of the truth behind the assassination of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino," Acosta told reporters afterwards.

The Sandiganbayan's Third Division has scheduled to hear the PAO's motion on Oct. 28.

Acosta, who claims to have a new witness as well as other new evidence that could acquit the 15 soldiers, has been trying to reopen the Aquino-Galman case since last year but has been rebuffed by the Supreme Court.

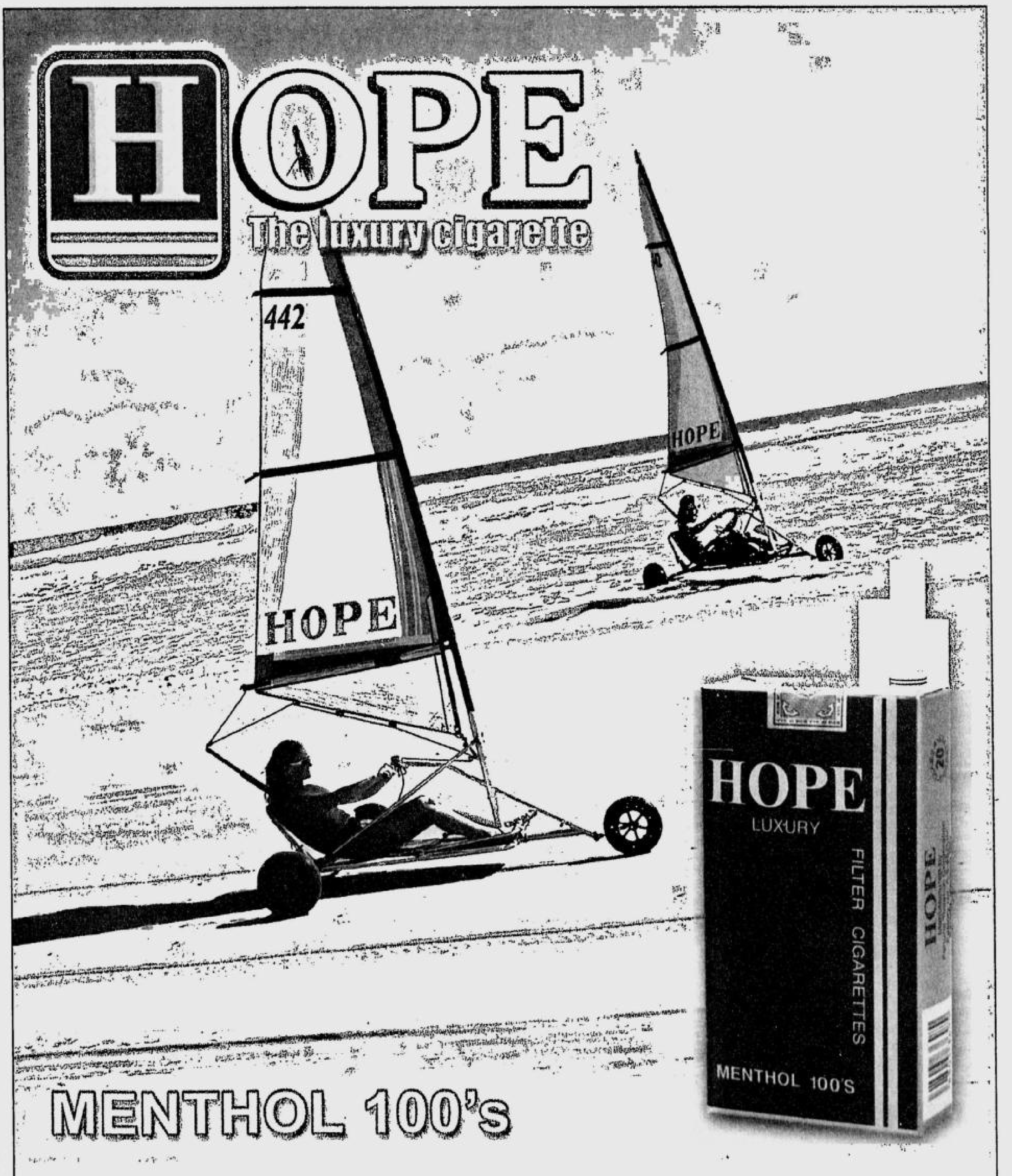
She has identified the new witness as T/Sgt. Ruben Cantimbuhan, the driver of the van that was to have fetched Aquino at the Manila International Airport when he returned from three years in exile in the United States. Cantimbuhan, who never testified before, claims to have seen Galman shoot Aquino, according to Acosta.

She also said that a forensic report made by experts from the University of the Philippines has concluded that Aquino was shot by Galman, contrary to the Sandiganbayan's finding that it was a soldier who shot Aquino.

Requisites for reopening

In denying the PAO's earlier petition, the High Court ruled that the requisites for reopening a case on the basis of new evidence were not met. It said Cantimbuhan's testimony would be merely corroborative and the supposedly new forensic evidence was merely new analysis and interpretation of old material that the defense could have presented but did not during the trial.

Aquino's slaying sparked massive public protests that culminated in the 1986 "people power" uprising that toppled the Marcos regime and catapulted Aquino's widow, Corazon Cojuangco, to power.



Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

NorthRail contract faces derailment

From page A1

project stretches for 32 km from Caloocan City to Malolos in Bulacan along the old line of the Philippine National Railways which had been abandoned for three decades. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Once completed, the railway will run diesel-powered commuter trains that can transport passengers in 30 minutes from end to end for a minimum fare of P51.50, according to NorthRail executives.

But major infrastructure work still lies ahead. This involves laying down dual railroad tracks, 6 stations, 1 viaduct, 8 river crossing bridges, 24 road crossings and 1 rail crossing.

The cash-strapped government has yet to clear more than 30,000 squatter shanties of roughly 150,000 people along the unused PNR route.

In February, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile denounced alleged onerous provisions in the NorthRail contract, calling it a "real railroad train robbery" and demanding an inquiry.

Senate President Franklin Drilon then commissioned the University of the Philippines Law Center to conduct a study on the arrangement.

On Sept. 29, Drilon's committee of the whole opened the long-awaited inquiry but got nowhere. Ms Arroyo had issued an order banning appearances of the executive branch in congressional hearings.

In its study, the UP Law Center uncovered alleged serious flaws in the contract awarded to the state-owned CNMEG on a silver platter, without benefit of a public bidding required under Philippine laws.

In full-page print ads, NorthRail executives and Chinese Embassy officials dismissed the criticisms as cheap politicking and unfair.

Unfazed, representatives of squatter groups and the UP Law Center on Tuesday filed a petition before the Supreme Court, urging the issuance of a temporary restraining order to stop the government from carrying out the project and to declare the NorthRail-CNMEG contract null and void.

No competitive bidding

The UP Law Center said the contract was awarded to CNMEG without prior competitive bidding as required under the Procurement Reform Act or RA 9184, depriving itself of a chance to reach a fair and reasonable price.

"You can get cheaper if you go to the market," one railway expert told the INQUIRER. He said that the government could have opted to conduct bidding in 2002 when the railway system was scaled down from a rapid airport express into a commuter train.

Original concept

"At that point, you could have invited others ... For instance, the Indians. You tell them: 'This is what I want. What's your proposal?' Why didn't they invite them? Do you think South Africa or Japan will not offer you the same terms? Japan alone will outbid them."

The project was originally conceptualized as a 90-km high-speed rail transit from Fort Bonifacio in Taguig to the special economic zone in Clark, Pampanga. This was recast into a commuter train, which is less costly and takes a shorter time to build.

While there are circumstances under which public bidding may be dispensed with, these were not present in the CNMEG deal, the UP Law Center said. The contract cannot be considered a treaty or an executive agreement, and exempted from public bidding. This was signed between two juridical personalities—CNMEG and NorthRail— and not between two states, the center said.

If at all, the center said that there was "every reason to believe" that CNMEG's designation as contractor was a precondition for the grant of the Eximbank's $400-million loan.

In its own earlier statement, NorthRail seemed to confirm this, saying that China "made it necessary" that NorthRail—a subsidiary of the government Bases Conversion Development Authority—and CNMEG conclude negotiations on the contract first before negotiating the final loan.

Hype about modern system

The center further said that the contract "may be void" because it lacked a certificate from the Philippine government showing that it has the financial capacity to produce the counterpart fund to the Chinese loan.

Above all else, the hype about the much-touted modern NorthRail system appears to be true only in the papers, or NorthRail ads.

CNMEG is supplying 21 four-car diesel multiple units (DMUs), or diesel-powered trains that will run on narrow gauge, albeit new, railroad tracks along the PNR line. In short, a conventional railway system.

Apart from being diesel-powered, CNMEG's rolling stock will have to run at slower speed because it will be using narrow-gauge tracks (1.067m), as opposed to standard gauge tracks (1.435m).

Gauge is the distance between two parallel rails. The standard gauge is the most common, while older systems are built on narrow gauge, like the PNR's line.

Buying old technology

"The railway proposed by CNMEG is not a modern railway system but would seem to be an upgrading of the old PNR railway system," said the railway expert, who asked not to be named. "You're buying old technology."

The NorthRail project could hardly compare with inter-urban Light Rail Transit and Metro Rail Transit systems in Metro Manila, which run electric-powered trains on mostly elevated, standard-gauge tracks.

An aborted deal with a Spanish railway firm was for $600 million, but it covered relocation of squatters and offered modern electric trains.

The railway expert also cast doubts on CNMEG's expertise to build the railway, saying that the state-owned company was engaged in trading, and not in railway construction.

NorthRail has maintained that CNMEG has the "proven competence and capability" to undertake the project, noting that it was ranked 42nd among 225 global construction companies by the Engineering News Record. "Moreover, CNMEG is also ranked 14 among China's construction companies," it said.

No technical specs

Curiously, the NorthRail-CNMEG contract contained no technical specifications for the rolling stock—apart from the general description that this will be 21 four-car diesel-powered trains.

The rolling stock refers to rail cars, bogies, capacity, speed, performance, air-conditioning, auxiliary equipment, among others.

"There are no specs for the rolling stock. I don't know what I'm buying ... In LRT 2, when they held the bidding, you know the specs ... You know what train, coach you're buying—the type of windows, seat, air condition," the expert rued.

By agreeing to such a contract, NorthRail has virtually given the CNMEG the leeway to define the specifications for the trains, the railway expert said. "It's a blank check to the contractor ... It's a contractor's dream contract."

And since there are no specifications for the rolling stock, one could not say the $503-million project cost was reasonable or the project was the "cheapest per kilometer rail," according to the expert.

"The simple thing is, have you saved if you say you bought a Sarao jeep for P2 million? I was buying Mercedes Benz or BMW for P5 million and you're claiming you've saved the government because you bought the government a Sarao."

Questionable validity

The UP Law Center also found the Feb. 26, 2004 Buyer Credit Loan Agreement (BCLA) between the Department of Finance and the China Export-Import Bank "of questionable validity" because it lacked prior concurrence from the Monetary Board.

More than anything else, the juicy terms of the Eximbank's $400-million loan—20 years to pay at 3 percent annual interest with a five-year grace period—convinced Manila to clinch the NorthRail deal with Beijing, sources said.

But the railway expert noticed some "strange features" of the loan agreement, which requires Manila to make a down payment equal to 5 percent of the $400 million-contract price and another advance payment of 25 percent to CNMEG.

"They got 25 percent from that advanced payment. Why did they require another 5 percent from the Philippine side? How come these were separated? A down payment is an advanced payment," the expert said.

Back to PNR's old glory if project stays on track

From page A1

by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her first State of the Nation Address in 2001, it was touted as the much-awaited economic catalyst for the region.

Cortes said the project would not only revive the old glory of the PNR railway but it would also provide a more dependable transport system for Filipinos from Manila to San Fernando in La Union.

Once completed, the entire NorthRail project will give rise to a new and efficient mass transport system with amenities like air-conditioning, bathrooms, dining and sleeping coaches for commuters.

The railway system is to be developed in four phases: Caloocan to Clark in Pampanga, Pampanga to Zambales, Caloocan to Fort Bonifacio in Makati and Pampanga to San Fernando, La Union.

Unfortunately, what the government can afford now is only a portion of the first phase, which is the 32-km line from Caloocan to Malolos in Bulacan.

Cortes said with a reliable railway system, industries that would rise along the Central to North Luzon corridor would create jobs and opportunities for the people in the area. The construction of the Caloocan-Malolos line itself will provide employment to at least 2,000 Filipinos, he added.

The economic multiplier of NorthRail, said Cortes, will eventually decongest Metro Manila, especially once the entire stretch is completed.

Cost of goods reduced

Cortes said the cost of goods would drop by at least 40 percent once the cargo services of NorthRail was on stream because producers could save on time, which would mean less spoilage. Train transport is also way cheaper than trucks or jeeps.

"Goods coming into Metro Manila undergo a lot of expenses which we can avoid under a train system," said the NorthRail chief.

NorthRail could even put up a cold storage facility for perishable goods. "Normally, producers include in their cost about 30 percent for spoilage," said Cortes.

"And the trucks pass through towns na may *kotong* (bribes). Under a train system, this cost will be gone," Cortes added.

Like two-lane highway

Unlike PNR which has single-track, NorthRail will use a double-track system as per original contract, which in effect makes it a two-lane highway that could accommodate more coaches and essentially more traffic once demand increases.

"If the government wants, we are willing to help solve the problem of garbage in Manila. We can have train cars specifically for garbage. They just tell us where to unload it. It's the best way to bring trash out," said the NorthRail chief.

Passengers are, of course, the priority and initially, they will be the only customers of the Caloocan-Malolos line set for operations in three years.

Caloocan-Manila: 30 minutes

"Commuters need not live in congested Manila once we have the NorthRail," Cortes said. "It would take them only 30 minutes to travel from Caloocan to Malolos whereas now, it could take an hour or more depending on the traffic."

NorthR ail is projecting that in the first year of operations of the Caloocan-Malolos line, it would carry an average of 188,458 commuters daily. On the 10th year, this should grow to almost 400,000 passengers daily.

This is quite a modest estimate considering that MRT 3 now carries more than 400,000 commuters daily.

[The proposed fare for the Caloocan-Malolos line consists of a boarding fee of P8 and P1.35 fare per kilometer. For the entire stretch, the fare is projected at P51.50 each.]

This fare structure is cheap compared to the P75 that buses charge now. In three years, bus fares will likely increase some more if fuel prices do not ease.

Joker demands head of national security adviser

From page A1

Supreme Court on Tuesday that he had discussed with President Macapagal-Arroyo the controversial contract with the US lobby firm Venable LLP.

He said the President should "let go" of her national security adviser for "dragging" her into the "messy contract."

"We were happy in the blue ribbon [committee] that the President was not involved. But with what he did [on Tuesday], he was practically dragging her into the fray, into the wrongdoing about the Venable contract," Arroyo said at a briefing.

"I don't think Secretary Gonzales has done a service to the President. He's causing problems for [her] and I think [she] should distance herself from him," the senator said.

On Sept. 21, the Senate blue ribbon committee chaired by Arroyo cited Gonzales in contempt and ordered him detained for evading questions on the Venable contract, which entails seeking US grants for Philippine projects, including amendments to the 1987 Constitution.

'A failure'

He has since been confined at the Philippine Heart Center for hypertension, under Senate custody.

Arroyo faced Gonzales at the nine-hourlong hearing on a petition for the issuance of habeas corpus filed by the latter's family at the Supreme Court.

On top of Gonzales' "poor performance" before the tribunal, Arroyo dredged up his inability to detect the plan of a group of key government officials, now collectively known as the Hyatt 10, to announce their resignation on July 8 and call on the President to do the same.

"Let's not go very far. If [he's] the national security adviser and the President is under threat, he should have spotted when and where the Hyatt 10 would make their move. He did not," Arroyo said, adding:

"So he's a failure. The President should let go of him ... What kind of a national security adviser is he? He's supposed to serve the President."

Arroyo also said Gonzales' conflicting statements on the Venable contract at the blue ribbon committee hearing and before the Supreme Court only showed the latter's flawed character.

Executive privilege

"It shows the character of the man. He has different stories for different forums. His performance at the Supreme Court exposes him as a fraud," Arroyo said.

At the end of the oral arguments at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, Chief Justice Hilario Davide gave the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG) five days to say whether the President was invoking executive privilege to stop Gonzales from making further revelations on the Venable contract.

But Arroyo said the move would have the effect of confirming that the President knew more about the contract—regarding who had referred it to Gonzales and who was financing it—than was previously claimed by Gonzales during the blue ribbon committee hearing.

"We are avoiding that. We do not want to involve the President. We already have many problems. But if she invokes it, we will honor it," Arroyo said.

But the senator pointed out that judging from the admission of Gonzales' lawyer Antonio Bautista during the oral arguments, it appeared that Gonzales was forcing the President's hand to save him from the situation he was in, lest he spill the beans on her.

Arroyo said the wealth of information held by Gonzales would make him a "National Security Rasputin" in the Cabinet, with the President too fearful to sack him.

Blackmail

"Before, he said that the President did not know about the deal; now he says she knows," Arroyo said, adding that this amounted to "blackmail" by Gonzales.

According to Arroyo, Bautista repeatedly said at the hearing that the President knew the identities of the donors and that Gonzales should first seek her permission before divulging their names.

"It sounds like an implied threat—you let me down and I will run you down; if you don't invoke executive privilege, I will bring you down," Arroyo said.

He said this could be the real message behind Bautista's cryptic remark about Gonzales knowing, not the donors, but the one who knew the donors.

Arroyo also said this was a complete departure from Gonzales' statement before the blue ribbon committee that he had to consult the donors before he could name them.

Waste of time

According to Arroyo, the hearing at the Supreme Court was a waste of time because Gonzales again stonewalled on questions regarding the contract.

For instance, Arroyo said, Gonzales said he would have to seek clearance from the President when he was asked to name the Cabinet member who supposedly knew the donors.

"I think we wasted the time of the Supreme Court, and it's not fair to the court. We spent nine hours of continuous oral arguments, and the same questions were asked at the blue ribbon [committee hearing], including the identity of the donors," he said.

Davide gave the involved parties five days to submit their respective memoranda, and the Senate to submit proof that it had published its rules on investigation.

He ordered the OSG to make the "manifestation" about whether the President was invoking executive privilege after noticing that although Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had written the blue ribbon committee to say that they were invoking that privilege, he did not say whether the move was done "by authority of the President."

Davide and the other justices also agreed to allow Gonzales to name the donors during a meeting at chambers, but Arroyo objected to this, saying the information would be more of "value" to the Senate blue ribbon committee than to the high court.

Not a minute longer

Gonzales remains in the custody of the Senate. Arroyo said Gonzales would be released once he expresses willingness to answer the senators' questions on the Venable contract.

"We don't want to hold him a minute longer," the senator said. "All he has to do is tell who are the donors. We can even create a committee of the blue ribbon committee, and go [to the Philippine Heart Center] ourselves."

In Malacañang, Executive Secretary Ermita yesterday told reporters it was up to the President to decide whether Gonzales should go on vacation leave, as supposedly requested by the senators as a condition for his release from detention.

"That is a call for the President ... She is the appointing authority, and Gonzales will express his sentiment also," Ermita said, but added that he had not received any such request from the Senate.

Ermita also said Gonzales would be able to do his work at the hospital. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Angie assures protesters: No hammer to kill a fly

From page A1

Macapagal-Arroyo's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy on dissenters: "We won't use a hammer to kill a fly."

"And yes, we will have your cases looked into," Reyes said when the victims of recent violent dispersals and human rights advocates expressed their doubts on his statement with a loud collective gasp.

Reyes attempted to portray a rather benevolent picture of riot police enforcing Ms Arroyo's get-tough policy on protesters issued after she survived an impeachment attempt last month on charges she stole last year's election. Her opponents have vowed to carry on to the streets their fight to oust her.

Having obtained Malacañang's consent to appear before the House committee on human rights, Reyes explained that the new policy was just the concept of maximum tolerance being "operationalized."

"We sometimes misconstrue maximum tolerance as the police just having to stand there doing nothing," he said.

As for the term "preemptive," Reyes said it simply meant the prevention of any violence. "If you have a way of preventing (violence) you have to do it," he said.

Among the victims of alleged police brutality that came to the hearing were activist Renato Constantino and human rights advocate Fajima Tajar.

Constantino said that he, his wife and several others had tried crossing the road toward Mendiola Bridge on Tuesday but were beaten up by riot police.

"This is a violation not only of freedom of speech and expression. This is also a violation of freedom of movement because we were kept from crossing the street and walking into Mendiola Bridge," said Constantino.

"You forget that you're a senior citizen when you see your wife also being beaten up by the police," Constantino said.

Tajar accused police of unnecessarily touching her even as she had already been held by both hands en route to being arrested.

"Why would they have to put a hand in my back pocket when they were already holding me by both my arms?" a sobbing Tajar said.

Tajar said that the police at the Manila Police District headquarters also insulted her.

"I asked (a certain) Colonel Miranda why they were (intimidating us) when my mom and dad were taxpayers who in part pay for their salaries. He said it must be that my parents were not paying their taxes," Tajar said.

Reyes said officials had already conducted investigations and several police officers had been taken to account.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Quake leaves 2.5M homeless in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD—AROUND 2.5 MILLION PEOPLE left homeless by a mammoth quake which killed 23,000 in Pakistan need urgent help as winter approaches, Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said Tuesday.

Aziz appealed to foreign governments to send more money, tents, blankets and other aid to help survivors four days after the 7.6 magnitude earthquake.

"There is one estimate of 2.5 million people will need new housing," he told a news conference in the capital Islamabad. "Whole cities have been annihilated."

One of the major challenges was that winter was drawing in and survivors in the mountainous region would need immediate protection from the cold and also massive help to rebuild their lives.

"Soon many of the people who are homeless will face winter, so that is why we need to provide tents and take other measures to ensure that when severe winter comes they are protected," he said.

"Our priorities for foreign assistance are, first, financial, so then we can buy locally and send quickly," he said.

"Second would be tents; third would be blankets; fourth would be medicines and medical equipment; fifth would be engineering equipment to rebuild."

He added: "It's a mammoth exercise in logistics, it's a mammoth exercise in coordination, it's a mammoth exercise in every respect of human endurance."

Aziz said the latest death toll was approximately 23,000 and the number of injured about 51,000. "It is expected to rise as we go into the outlying areas," he added.

Until Monday the government had put casualties at 20,760 killed and 43,000 injured. The United Nations Children's Fund and a senior Pakistani government official on Monday estimated the death toll at between 30,000 and 40,000.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the toll in Indian Kashmir jumped to 1,300 Tuesday.

Pakistan has also appealed for more transport helicopters to get relief supplies to far-flung mountain villages that were flattened by landslides in the quake.

Military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan told reporters that the United States is to send 24 more giant Chinook heavy lift helicopters to Pakistan.

The US military in Afghanistan sent five Chinooks and three smaller Black Hawk choppers on Monday and the new helicopters are expected next week, military spokesperson Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan told reporters.

"Twenty-four more Chinooks are being mobilized by the US," Sultan said. "I think we are expecting them to arrive in one week's time."

Two German helicopters and four Afghan helicopters were also due to arrive in Pakistan in coming days, Sultan added. *AFP*

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Did quake kill Bin Laden?

WASHINGTON—DID OSAMA BIN LADEN'S secret lair crumble in the earthquake that kdevastated northwest Pakistan?

So far, US government officials and terrorism experts caution against too much speculation about whether the al-Qaida chief may have been killed, injured or forced from hiding, providing a much-needed break for his pursuers.

Pentagon spokesman Lawrence Di Rita barely provided a glimpse into the US thinking on Bin Laden's fate. "There's a lot of people who know that that's an obvious question," Di Rita said Tuesday.

Federal officials who track terrorism for a living said there's no evidence yet to suggest that Bin Laden or his top deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, was injured or killed in the quake.

Yet the quake has caused many in and out of government to ask, "What if?"

Bin Laden has been rumored to be taking cover everywhere from urban areas of Pakistan to remote cave structures winding along the Afghan-Pakistani border to villages in western Pakistan's lawless tribal areas.

Any of these possible hideouts could have been at least shook by Saturday's 7.6-magnitude quake, forcing Bin Laden to move. *AP*

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Merkel's power as chancellor seen limited

BERLIN—CONSERVATIVE LEADER ANGELA Merkel will have only limited personal power as chancellor in a government of Germany's main right- and left-wing parties, leaders on both sides said as they prepared for coalition talks.

Meanwhile, the head of the largest opposition party in the new German parliament accused Merkel on Tuesday of dashing hopes of "real political change" through her deal with outgoing Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democrats, and forecast her government will be short-lived.

Merkel, 51, took a big step toward becoming Germany's first female chancellor when her conservatives reached a power-sharing deal with Schroeder's party three weeks after inconclusive parliamentary elections that gave neither side a majority.

In return, the Social Democrats got eight of the 14 federal ministries and a promise from Merkel to drop disputed social and labor reforms, and insist they will have an equal say in the government's direction.

As for Schroeder, he hinted Tuesday evening that he may choose not to remain in government. His party says he will participate in the coalition talks.

"I want to play a part in things going well," he said of efforts to form a coalition. "That is how I understand the task that one has, and also has if one is not going to belong to the next government."

Social Democrat chair Franz Muentefering said that while a chancellor's right to set the government's course was anchored in the constitution, it was "not realistic" for Merkel to use it.

Senior conservatives acknowledged her authority would be limited, but said there would be cases where she would take the initiative.

"That the chancellor sets the course in a coalition with equally strong partners is only possible in very small doses," said Edmund Stoiber, who will lead the coalition talks for the conservatives alongside Merkel. "Either we can do it together, or it must be laid to rest."

Merkel's ability to reconcile the two parties will be crucial to the stability of a new government, only the second made of up of Germany's two main parties since World War II, and to the pace of reform in Europe's largest economy.

Both sides were forced into coalition talks after voters ousted Schroeder's alliance of Social Democrats and Greens but failed to give a majority to Merkel's preferred coalition with the Free Democrats, now the largest opposition party in the new parliament.

They want to revive the sluggish economy and rein back double-digit unemployment bleeding the government's finances. They have also agreed to boost education spending and financial support for families. *AP*

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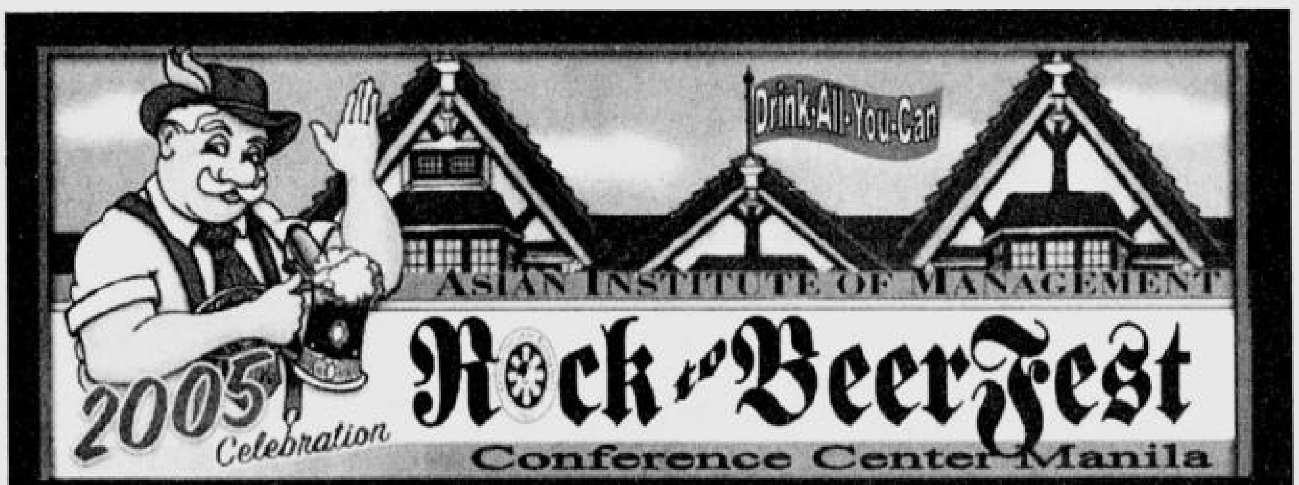

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Sunnis back new Iraqi constitution

BAGHDAD—IRAQI POLITICAL LEADERS HAMmered out a last-minute deal late Tuesday to win Sunni Arab support for the country's new constitution ahead of a crucial vote, after a day of violence which cost more than 50 lives.

Insurgent attacks included a suicide car bombing in a crowded market in the northern town of Tal Afar, underscoring the tough task of ensuring security for Saturday's referendum.

Sunni-backed rebels have vowed to disrupt the referendum on the constitution, a crucial stage in Iraq's post-Saddam Hussein political transition but which has deeply divided the country on sectarian grounds.

But after days of intense political negotiations, Shiite and Kurdish leaders agreed concessions that will see parliament consider amendments to the charter after new elections are held in December, party officials said.

The main Sunni Arab party said it would now be calling for a "yes" vote on Saturday, when 15.5 million registered voters are to cast their ballots on the document that lays out the legal framework for the new Iraq.

"There was an agreement and we are calling for a 'yes' vote," Ayad Sammarai, spokesperson for the Iraqi Islamic Party, told AFP. "It will give us the opportunity to review the constitution."

Most Sunnis are opposed to the federal provisions of the draft, fearing it could lead to the breakup of the country and leave control of the vast oil wealth in the hands of Shiites and Kurds.

But the United States has been engaged in efforts to bring the ousted Sunni elite on board in the hope it will weaken the insurgency and enable the departure of foreign troops. *AFP*

Relatives, survivors mark 3rd anniversary of Bali blasts

BALI—SURVIVORS AND RELATIVES OF THE 202 people killed in the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings gathered at the site of the attacks Wednesday, sharing tears and prayer and vowing to unite against the "terrorism menace" on the attack's third anniversary.

Security was tight across the Indonesian resort island, where just 11 days ago suspected al-Qaida linked militants carried out a second series of attacks on crowded restaurants, killing 23 people, including the three suicide bombers.

Snipers were deployed on buildings and thousands of police were stationed at beaches, resorts and lanes leading to the ceremony at the heart of the island's famous Kuta tourist district.

About 200 people—some dressed in T-shirts and flip flops—turned out at the site of the nightclub bombings for the early morning service. They gathered around a granite memorial engraved with the names of those who died exactly three years ago.

Among those attending was Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, whose nation lost 88 citizens in the bombings. Four Australians were also among the victims in this month's blasts. *AP*

NEW SPACE POWER
A TV frame grab shows Chinese astronauts Fei Junlong and Nie Haisheng in spacecraft Shenzhou VI during lift-off at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Cente
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US, WHO warn of huge economic impact from bird flu

SINGAPORE—THE UNITED STATES and the World Health Organization on Wednesday warned that the economic impact from a flu pandemic would be enormous, and urged countries to prepare for a possible outbreak reminiscent of the infamous 1918 flu epidemic that killed as many as 50 million people.

Officials have repeatedly expressed concern that the H5N1 strain of avian influenza that has swept through poultry populations in many parts of Asia since 2003 and killing at least 60 people could mutate to become contagious among humans.

Suspected bird flu cases in humans have been detected as far away as Turkey and Romania, but so far, most of the infections have been traced to direct contact with sick fowl. *AP*

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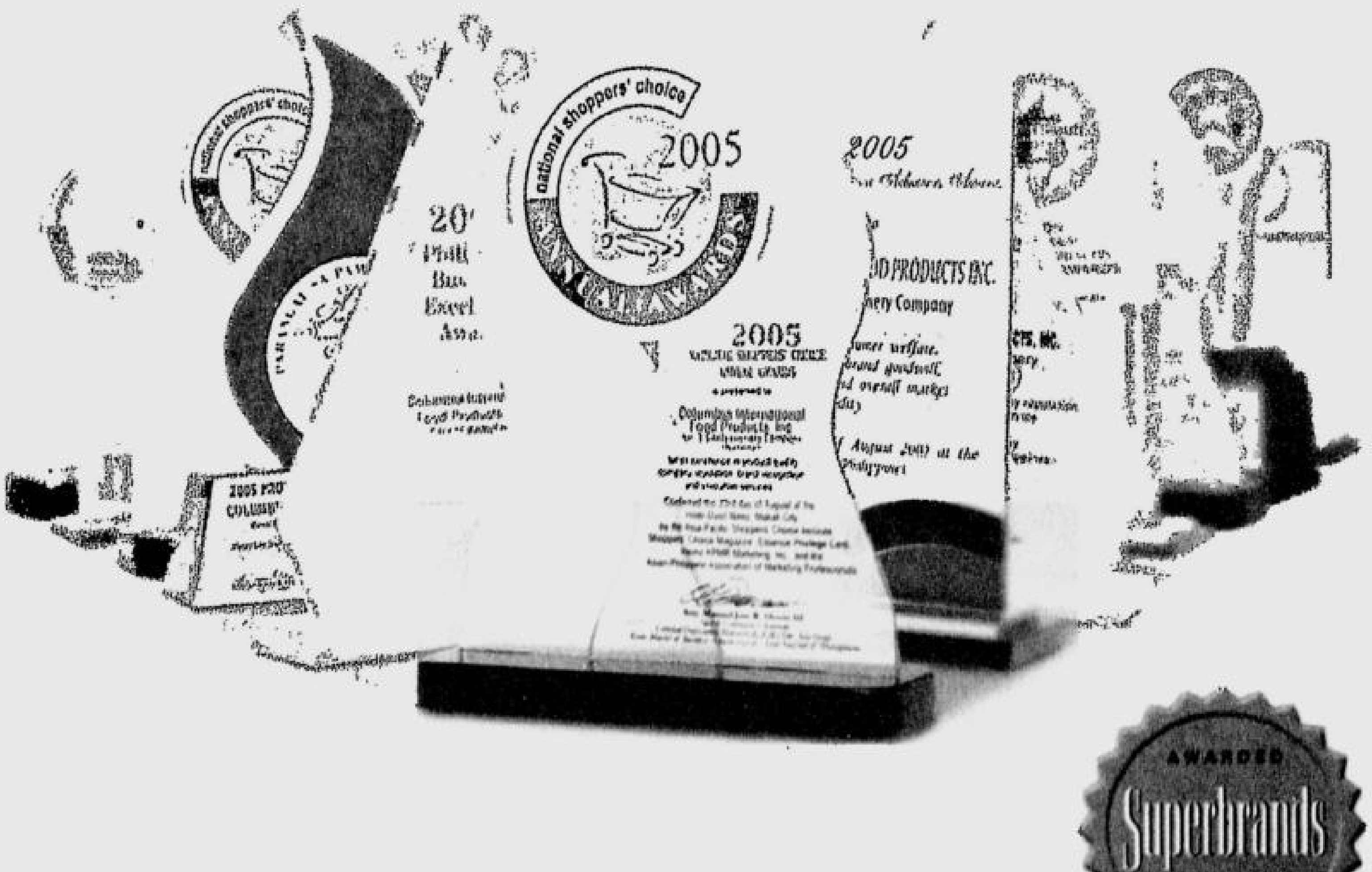
2004 Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards; *I-COOL Mint Bubble Gum, Most Outstanding Mentholated Gum (National Awards);* July 7, 2005 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Manila City

2005 Philippine Business Excellence Awards; *No. 1 Candy Manufacturer;* June 28, 2005 at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club, Mandaluyong City

2005 Parangal Sa Pamilyang Pilipino Family Products and Services Excellence Awards; *Best Family-Oriented Confectionery Products Manufacturer;* May 21, 2005 at the Ateneo de Manila University, Katipunan Road, Quezon City

2004 Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards; *Most Outstanding Confectionery Company (National Awards);* April 6, 2005 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Manila City



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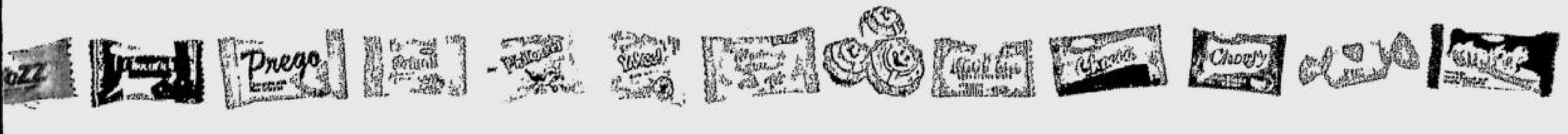

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OPINION

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EDITORIALS

Unspeakable peril

JOAN DIDION MAY HAVE HAD SOMETHING ELSE IN mind when she wrote of "the unspeakable peril of the everyday," but it can well apply to the current conditions in these parts where the imposition of emergency rule (or a variant thereof) seems to become inexorable by the day. Read their lips: Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's announcement on Monday—that he had completed the draft of a proclamation of a "state of national emergency" that would allow for a government takeover of vital industries—indicates the burgeoning danger; Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's words on Tuesday—that it would be "perfectly natural to expect" President Macapagal-Arroyo to consider taking "extra-constitutional measures for self-defense"—add fuel to the prairie fire.

More than the usual suspects, these two officials are in a position to mouth the Malacañang line, unless they are dramatically contradicted by the Palace itself—and so far they have yet to be. Often amazingly impolitic, their statements are so freely dispensed as to serve as both warning and test (a toe, as it were, to feel the waters of public opinion, or, as we have earlier suggested, as a trial balloon), and not, surely, as mere concessions to the demands of celebrity.

In fact, it has come to the point that all the attentive observer has to go by are the words of such worthies as Gonzalez and Santiago, Malacañang having flip-flopped on a wide range of subjects ranging from holiday declarations to announcements of appointees to original and manipulated "Garci" tapes; and the President herself having been proven at least once to go back on her word—or (good Lord) to stage-manage even such events as a family stroll down the bay walk.

Thus the "unspeakable peril of the everyday," to mean the terrible toll of the quotidian that thinking beings daily grapple with, which in these parts now comes edged with more than the usual foreboding.

And now Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita is saying that the option of emergency rule is "always open," and that if it is indeed declared, no matter how briefly, "the objective is to control the situation." We have come to this.

Resistance

BUT IF THE STREETS CONTINUE TO BOIL OVER with protest, it is because activists are striving to keep the fire of resistance from petering out in the swiftly diminishing democratic space. In case it has been forgotten in what administration apologists call the "political noise," the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration is still in question despite the demise of the impeachment complaints in the House.

With Malacañang beefing up the muscle with its calibrated preemptive response, and antiriot police gleefully finding an outlet for the frustrations brought by meager pay and the general ignorance of fundamental human freedoms, protesters are walking the line.

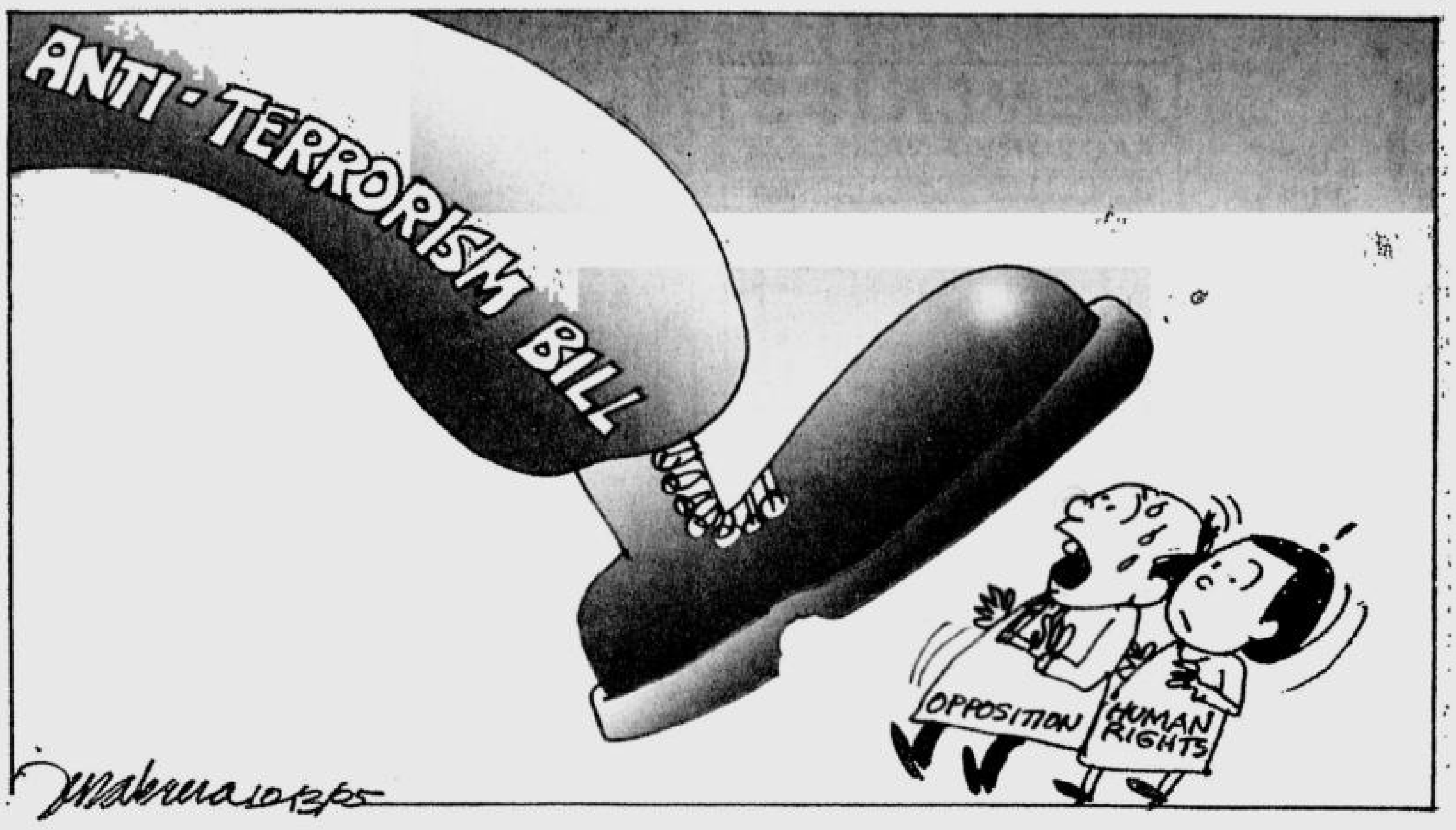
They risk life, limb and future to push the envelope. (The deployment of policewomen to the antiriot frontline is an attempt on the part of Malacañang to wield kid gloves, or, to belabor metaphors, to dangle the carrot in place of the big stick. TV footage and photographs of cops beating the living daylights out of young people, male or female, and even elderly women, won't do on the world stage.)

The attentive observer will, of course, recognize a potential trap: Activists will challenge the limits to uphold their rights, the administration will continue to "defend" itself through CPR and other means, and, subsequently—as Marcos did not too long ago—cite the continuing protest actions as among other rationales for a declaration of emergency rule (or a variant thereof).

Then as now, astuteness should be the operative word. Who is to decree, after all, that only those in power should have the power of self-determination?

Perhaps Franz Kafka's "A Little Fable" will serve to show the way:

"'Alas,' said the mouse, 'the world is growing smaller every day. At first it was so big that I was afraid. I ran on and I was glad when at last I saw walls to left and right of me in the distance, but these long walls are closing in on each other so fast that I have already reached the end room, and there in the corner stands the trap that I am heading for.' 'You only have to change direction,' said the cat, and ate it up."



Look, Ma, no hands!

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"IS THIS PLACE RUNNING ON AUTO-PILOT?" one asks on returning from even just a quick trip abroad. No one, who is anyone, seems to be steering.

Not the President. Not the opposition either. A stream of controversies—from the "Garci" tapes to a detained national security adviser—sap most attention. Reforms have gathered dust. There's little innovation or ratcheted efforts to meet the demands of today's economic crisis. Routine functions prevail. "Look, Ma, no hands!"

Ordinary folk, in and out of government, plod on with their daily chores within a volatile economy, grateful to be left alone.

In our system, the president is pilot. But President Macapagal-Arroyo isn't in the cockpit. Instead, she's in the cabin, pampering party mates who threaten, at every turn, to bolt if their whims are not accommodated.

Forget her rhetoric on principles. Ms Arroyo's "leadership" is built on shifting sands of bought loyalties. What served her was moral. That resonates in lawyer John Dean's comment to the New York Post amid Watergate's rubble: "The White House is another world. Expediency is everything."

Malacañang is also another world. Imelda Marcos never returned to earth after overstaying there. And in this rarefied world, Ms Arroyo has set low standards—yet failed to achieve them.

Her regime waffles on critical issues. It never hauled back, for example, former cop Michael Ray Aquino for the Dacer-Corbito murder and Kuratong Baleleng salvaging.

Lack of grit? Or accommodation of Aquino's guru: Sen. Panfilo Lacson? This regime instead let US police and courts do what it didn't accomplish: shove fugitive Aquino into the slammer.

Lacson sneered that the California Superior Court couldn't burn him for violations of a contract on handcuff purchase. After the judge threatened arrest, Lacson folded like an accordion. Friends paid the fine, he blandly claimed.

"You cannot learn too soon that the most useful thing about a principle is that it can always be sacrificed to expediency," W. Somerset Maugham wrote.

Here, crooks don't go to jail; they seek public office instead. Consider expelled Rep. Mark Jimenez in a federal clink for fracturing US electoral laws. He'll run for Manila mayor, after release this year, his friends claim. That's Jimenez's opinion of our electoral system.

Can you blame him? Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano didn't leave a forwarding address before skipping town. Neither did Erap cronies Jaime Dichaves and Atong Ang.

In Nordic countries, the United Kingdom or Japan, a convicted tax evader strolling around is unthinkable. In the United States, racketeer Al Capone got irons for trifling with the tax code.

But this regime hasn't enforced the final Supreme Court decision on Gov. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s shoddy tax arithmetic. It looked away. In this neck of the woods, crime pays.

But the price tag multiplies exponentially. There's a limit to favors (OK, OK, bribes) that even a chief executive can dole out—from a Libingan ng mga Bayani burial to ignoring vigilante murders in fiefdoms of allies: Mayor Tomas Osmeña in Cebu City or Rodrigo Duterte in Davao.

Thus, our pilot finds herself hostage. And sterling executives like Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo and Subic's Francisco Licuanan bail out—albeit with more finesse than the "Hyatt 10."

The opposition is supposed to be co-pilot. A second pair of eyes and extra hands on the wheel assure friendly skies. Thomas More summed up the rationale for reasoned cooperation: "I am the King's good servant, but God's first."

But opposition leaders insist: "Me first." Thus, detained Joseph Estrada and the communists' Horacio Morales demand they head a transitional government, the Constitution be dammed.

Others barge into the cockpit. Senate President Franklin Drilon uses a shabbily researched NorthRail exposé as club. Sen. "Jingle Bells" Estrada's weapon of choice is the smear under parliamentary immunity.

Articulate opposition women include Ilocos Rep. Imee Marcos and Cebu's Rep. Clavel Asas Martinez. Marcos twists in the wind for abandoning the impeachment vote. And the regional Ombudsmen are probing how P26.5 million of Girl Scouts' funds were squirreled into Martinez's personal bank account.

Add to that, has-beens like Ernesto Maceda et al. You'd be daft to fly with such cutthroats.

The communists, meanwhile, want to hijack the plane. Trounced in the "parliament of the streets," they'd piggyback on disaffected military officers. The party's webpage "Solidarity" blares: "The Communist Party of the Philippines extended its offer of possible alliance and cooperation with patriotic, democratic and critical-minded officials and soldiers of the Armed Forces." But nobody's flying.

In this vacuum, needed radical reforms wither. Routine functions substitute for hard decisions and gruelling work. "Look, Ma. No hands."

But inaction only consumes even the seed for tomorrow. Samoa overtook the Philippines among 177 countries, gauged by the 2005 UN Human Development Report. That erosion tempts some messiahs in uniform to come charging in. Marcos led us down this garden path before. It was a disaster. Forget it, gents.

By their daily work and lives, ordinary citizens, like us, must keel-haul "leaders" who work by Caiphas' counsel: "It is expedient that one man die for the people."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Evil and good

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT ASKED ME A most interesting question recently: Is People Power still possible or will nothing less than a coup get Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo out of power? My answer, which I present here more coherently after much reflection, is this:

If People Power means a huge mass of people taking to the streets, a la Edsa I and II, led by representatives of the opposition, Church and civil society, and subsequently being joined by top officials in the military and government, I don't know. The lethargy, if not cynicism, among the public is patent, which seems to be a major argument against it. But the reasons for that lethargy and cynicism may hold the key to whether it is still possible or not.

CenPEG, a public policy group composed of scholars, attributes it to the fact that the middle class, which is the backbone of People Power, has fallen for GMA's trap of limiting its options to "constitutional" ones. After the impeachment initiative was defeated in the House, the middle class was left with nothing. That class' "skepticism has since morphed into cynicism—the widespread belief that state institutions, particularly the Executive, Congress, and even the Judiciary, are hopelessly mired in the sole pursuit of self-interest to the detriment of national interest."

I have a somewhat different take from this. I've always argued that People Power, though led by the middle class, or by a libertarian opposition, Church, civil society, and business, was truly People Power in that it had a mass base. Even the second Edsa, notwithstanding that many people, not least the US media, saw it as a middle class coup rather than a popular revolt. My argument rests on the phenomenon of the impeachment trial. That trial, which was aired on TV for several months, became the most popular entertainment fare of the time, more watched and talked about than the *telenovelas*. That was what turned the tide against Erap, turning him from hero to villain.

The impeachment was nothing more or less than a morality play, a story of good and evil, a theme that pervades every popular offering in this country, from the soap operas to the action movies Erap himself made. That is the most powerful motivator in this country, a story of good and evil, and that was the thing that motivated the public, middle class and *masa*, to rise up against Erap.

That is what we do not have right now. What we have is not a story about good and evil; what is there is a story about evil. That is not good enough.

I do not believe that Filipinos have gotten tired of People Power, having done it twice before and gotten nothing. What I believe is that Filipinos cannot be motivated enough to lift their asses up from OTB and their dreams of migrating to America and oust a tyrant solely because of her evil. They need to believe in a good as well. It's the combination of the two that ignites People Power. That is what makes People Power a moral imperative, not because it is ordered by the bishops. That is what explains the seeming paradox that while nearly every Filipino believes GMA did not win the elections, they do not seem to want to do anything about it.

It is not, as the bishops say, because the public is skeptical about the "truth" of the opposition. It is not, as others say, that there is no sense of outrage, even if you do hear some people say, "So what?" to the fact that GMA stole the vote. It is not even, as still others say, that the cell phone has taken its toll, Filipinos preferring text joke to street march to express protest. The depth of anger is palpable, quite apart from being borne out by the surveys. People are actually getting sick and even dying from looking at the visage of our version of Medusa. I wonder how many more patients Makati Med and St. Luke's took in after GMA appeared with Pacquiao et al. and Precious Lara Quigaman on TV.

But there is no outpouring of public indignation on the streets. The text jokes are not a cause of paralysis, they are an effect. To paraphrase a saying popularized by Jose Concepcion during the first Edsa, people today prefer to just curse the darkness for lack of a match to light the candle with.

The public today has a face for evil, it has no face for good.

Today's good is odorless, shapeless, tasteless. You cannot see it or feel it: It is an amorphous entity. The first Edsa had a clear face for good, and that was Cory, or all that she represented. Her vow to be the opposite of Marcos was extremely powerful in that it reinforced the antithesis of good and evil. The second Edsa had a very clear face for good as well. That was not GMA—had it been so, Edsa II would never have happened; but trust GMA to be grateful to Cory—that was, well, the face of constitutional succession. That at least gave the hope things would get better.

There is little of that today. Which explains why, despite more and more exposés about GMA's wrongdoing, people do not fill up the streets to demand her scalp. Her tack of caricaturing her foes as a bunch of opportunistic wannabes is not without effect. It is little helped by the fact that some of those who fill the ranks of the current opposition are opportunistic wannabes—like she and her current crop of lieutenants were during the fight against Erap. GMA can afford to be the epitome of evil, so long as there is no epitome of good to be her antithesis. The problem is not making her more evil, the problem is making the cause of ousting her more good.

Can it be done? Yes. I've been proposing it again and again, and feeling more and more like a voice in the wilderness: Oust GMA, hold elections. That is thesis and antithesis. That is tyranny and democracy. That is evil and good.

That is what makes for People Power.

Don't draw distinctions among laws—Querol

Political Tidbits

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE RECENT RALLY AT THE CHINO ROCES Bridge (formerly Mendiola Bridge) that led to a scuffle between a small group of militants and the police was obviously meant to test the law and each group's resolve. Renato Constantino Jr., who led the group that included his wife and civic leader Princess Nemenzo, said on TV that they merely wanted to assert their right to rally at the historic bridge. This was in defiance of a ban by Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. PNP Metro Manila Director Vidal Querol told a hearing at the House yesterday that the ban on rallies at Chino Roces is covered by Batas Pambansa 880, the Public Assembly Act of 1985, the last year of the Marcos regime. A provision states that if a security of the state is threatened, the right to peaceful assembly in a given area could be suspended. Querol said that for as long as this law has not been repealed, the PNP is duty-bound to enforce it. That would not be a good day, he warned, when the police would have to figure out which law to enforce and which not to. Perhaps, Rep. Etta Rosales could sponsor its repeal in the House.

* * *

In every regime, there are always militants who make the Mendiola Bridge their favorite rally site. Former President Aquino lamented the current state of affairs, where policemen have to prevent militants from crossing the bridge. But the memory of the shooting of 17 farmers at that very spot early in her term by the police under Brig. Gen. Alfredo Lim remains fresh in the minds of people.

In a recent chat with me, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza stressed that his recollection of that massacre, which he personally witnessed, is still so vivid that he wants to avoid a repeat of it. Hence, his ruling that rallies and demos be confined to designated "freedom parks" in the city, with prior permits to be secured from City Hall. These are Plaza Miranda in Quiapo, where the opposition recently held its rally of nearly a thousand people, Liwasang Bonifacio, the Bonifacio Shrine in nearby Mehan Gardens, and the Luneta, where a mammoth rally by the Jesus Is Lord group was held over a week ago. I think the Freedom Park concept is sensible as it prevents the traffic from clogging up major arteries in the metropolis.

Atienza also stressed that another carnage, the infamous Plaza Miranda bombing in August 1971, which he survived, also remains a scar in his memory. "We want to avoid possible flash points that could be used by both local or foreign terrorists for anarchy," he said. "We must learn from past experience."

* * *

I discussed this issue with a respected lawyer who said that, perhaps, a few dozen people could be allowed to rally in Mendiola Bridge. But I argued that given the mindset of some militants and the temper of the times, if one allows a few dozens, the next time a few thousands will come and then 20,000. He also argued that in the United States, demonstrations are allowed in front of the White House. But I noted that this was before 9/11. Today, the broad Pennsylvania Avenue is very restricted. And Mendiola is a very small street with lots of schools, at the end of which is Malacañang (I should know, for I studied at Holy Ghost College for 10 years). The security of both the students and those living and working in the Palace definitely must have figured in this ban. The freedom parks are the best venue.

* * *

Fr. James B. Reuter wrote to thank me for mentioning the Congressional Medal of Achievement award that his former stagehand in the Ateneo, Speaker Jose de Venecia, gave him on behalf of the House. "Really, when they begin to give you awards, it only means that you're not as young as you used to be. Your friends want to make a kind gesture while you're still around," he said. He also was thankful for the fond reminiscence my brother, Roger Olivares, wrote of him in the old Ateneo. **Reuter said it was "all positive" and "that is exactly what the country needs right now." He lamented that "all the stories in the newspapers, on TV and over the radio are all tales of greed, ambition, sex and violence. All negative, they are bringing about a national sense of depression."**

* * *

I also mentioned that Roger Olivares, a businessman-writer based part-time in the United States, has written another novel, which he titled "Noli Me Tangere 2." In the book, he brings back Dr. Jose Rizal's "Noli" characters—Crisostomo Ibarra, Maria Clara, Elias and Sisa—to our present modern Philippines, this time to fight corruption and greed instead of Padre Damaso and the Guardia Civil. It's a 200-page novel on ideals, love, joy and tragedy, sold for only P195 at popular book stores, supermarkets, gas stations, etc. He's pricing it low so it would be affordable even to students and public libraries.

* * *

"Noli 2" will be launched this Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Carmelite Monastery of St. Therese at 4 Gilmore St., QC from 2-5 p.m. Former Senate President Jovito Salonga will be the guest of honor. Also invited as special guest (at the request of the Carmelites) is Sen. Joker Arroyo and QC Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, who hopefully will update us on the progress of Payatas which figured prominently in the book; and former Secretary Heherson Alvarez. Why the Carmelite Monastery? Because the idea for a "Noli" revisited came as a sudden suggestion from the sisters, in the course of Roger's dialog with them on the great Carmelite saint, Teresa of Avila, whom he wrote about in an earlier book (her feast is this Saturday, too). A descendant of Dr. Rizal, Enrique Herbosa, whose father Don Estanislao Herbosa, introduced Roger to the national hero at a young age will also be there. To provide music will be members of his Ateneo High School Class '55, who are rehearsing for a concert called "On Wings of Song—One Big Flight," featuring soloists Jess Gonzales, Tony de Leon and Manolo Dayrit. He's also inviting his fellow alumni at the University of Illinois.

* * *

Remembering poverty

Human Face

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH WHEN THE WORLD is supposed to pause, remember and confront the issue of poverty and hunger. Oct. 16 is World Food Day, while Oct. 17 is the Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty—the latter by virtue of a UN Resolution and a presidential proclamation.

October is Indigenous People's (IP) Month in the Philippines. The IPs, being among the poorest and hungriest in the country, should have the whole of October to them.

In Southern Palawan, IPs and long-time settlers are holding a "Solidarity March for Land and Life." The undertaking will cover the distance from Rio Tuba to Puerto Princesa City. It started yesterday, Oct. 12, and will last till Oct. 17.

The march will highlight the IPs' call for the local, provincial and national government to look their way. The issues being raised are the slow processing of ancestral domain claims, government neglect and unfair local and national laws that threaten the culture and livelihood of indigenous communities. Among the marchers are members of the Palaw'an and Molbog tribes and fishermen from the towns of Bataraza and Balabac.

In 1974, when the country was under martial law, the Palaw'an and Molbog tribes were driven away from their ancestral domain in Bugsuk and Pandanan Island. It was so easy then for the dictator's cronies to point to and claim the areas of their choice. Well, the IPs are now claiming back their land.

In 2001, the IPs applied for a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT). They have complied with all the requirements. The National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) had promised to conduct the delineation survey if the communities would raise the funds to cover the expenses. As of last year, the communities have raised the funds but the survey has not yet been started.

Meanwhile, many of them have to contend with the 5,000-hectare pearl farm of Jewelmer, one of the biggest South Sea pearl producers in the world, which is owned by Danding Cojuangco. The local government has declared the area a no-take-out zone, meaning no fishing is allowed there so that marine life could thrive and flourish. The fishermen now look like the destroyers of the environment. What is good for the fishermen is not good for the pearls.

According to Task Force Bugsuk, an NGO helping the fisherfolk, the story of displacement, disenfranchisement and marginalization is duplicated in many areas in South Palawan. TF Bugsuk reports that in Aborlan, those who refused to give up their land for a golf course were sued by the government itself. In Rio Tuba, communities near a nickel mining operation are suffering from diseases caused by water pollution.

An NGO that has made "remembering poverty" a yearly activity is the ATD Fourth World-Philippines, an international movement that started in France and is involved with the poor. Its main projects here are street libraries for children and value formation for adults. This is commendable indeed, but I wish ATD would also go into sustainable livelihood projects that would directly and materially improve the lives of poor families.

ATD recently came out with a study "How Poverty Separates Parents and Children: A Challenge to Human Rights." It profiles six countries—the Philippines, Guatemala, Haiti, Burkina Faso, the United States and the United Kingdom.

The chapters on the different countries gave complementary views of families whose children are in the custody of social services.

The Filipino parents profiled were more likely to voluntarily entrust their children to orphanages in hopes that they would thrive better in that environment than at home. Although the institutional and legal frameworks vary in different countries, there are striking similarities among parents who are faced with a series of obstacles. Too often, the outcome is despair.

A child in the United States blames her parents for not having been able to protect her from the child welfare system; a child in the Philippines runs away from an orphanage to search for her parents. ATD says these are symptoms of institutions gone awry. And yet, there are also important ways for institutions to strengthen the bond between children and their families. ATD cites the US' Child Welfare Organizing Project which proposes an approach that would enable parents to examine issues together and contribute to the planning of the child welfare system.

The children living on city streets in Burkina Faso have often been going in circles. They suffer from "rootlessness," and from the risks to health and well-being that result from their fending for themselves. Institutions have helped to protect some, but they have also left many of these children disoriented, not knowing how they can grow up and participate in their community. Here, the work of the Courtyard of 100 Trades has turned out to be an innovative model that demonstrates how it is possible to reintegrate these children into the lives of their families and rural communities.

If you have time for reflecting on poverty, join the gathering around the Commemorative Stone in Honor of the Victims of Poverty (near the Chess Plaza) at the Rizal Park on Monday, Oct. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Every year, on Oct. 17, in different parts of the world where ATD is present, activities are held around the commemorative markers. (There's one near the Eiffel Tower in Paris.)

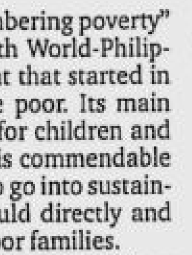
The Luneta ceremony will be followed by message writing and recreational activities for children and adults. I'm interested to know the thoughts and feelings of the children.

Poverty is most cruel to the young.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Country first always



The Long View

Manuel L. Quezon III

WHICH SHOULD COME FIRST IN A PUBLIC ceremony: an invocation or the national anthem? To any Filipino before the 1990s, the answer would have been as simple and instinctive—national anthem first, then the invocation. This was the way it was always done; this is the way it is being done elsewhere in the world. Even the Vatican City, which is a state by itself, has a national anthem; and the Pope stands at attention at the playing of the anthem and that of any state he happens to visit. Only after the state rituals have been concluded does he proceed to invoke God and bless the people. This is the way things should be. But somewhere along the line—and I believe in the last decade and a half—things changed in our country.

I have attended several occasions where an invocation came ahead of the national anthem. In every instance I vigorously protested the arrangement. One such occasion was the weekly flag raising ceremony of the Senate of the Philippines. The Senate employees informed me that the Senate rules provided for an invocation before the national anthem, so what could they do? Obviously, not much; but as a taxpayer and citizen, I still felt it was my duty to tell the employees that their bosses were wrong. One employee defended the innovation, virtuously preaching "God over country" to me, and pointing out that we are a religious people. I have heard essentially the same arguments from others.

That the Senate has fallen, officially, into this "God over country" mindset is, to my mind, scandalous. Institutions, such as the Senate, derive their sense of identity and purpose from what should, ideally, be a long memory for tradition and precedent—in other words, history. You would think that some of our greatest senators didn't wage a vigorous battle to ensure that the "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo" would be read by students—against the concerted objections of the Catholic hierarchy, clergy and religious orders. You would think that the attempts in the 1930s to permit religious instruction in public schools wasn't the subject of vigorous debate, then vetoed as a violation of the separation of Church and State principle.

It must mean something that every Constitution this country has had since 1899 mandated the separation of Church and State, in effect granting every citizen the right to freely practice his or her religious beliefs; although prohibiting the State from supporting any religion, with the particular objective of preventing one religion from enjoying state patronage to the prejudice of other religions, or citizens who profess no religion at all.

To its credit, the House of Representatives follows tradition, placing in its order of business the singing of the national anthem ahead of the invocation or period of silent prayer.

I have to raise the issue not only with the Senate employees but also with the employees of the Department of Science and Technology, and of various public and private schools; even with friends and colleagues in private organizations. The question is one of community, and an inclusive one at that. "God above country" may sound inspiring, but which God? The kind of God contemplated by our Constitution and our previous charters is more of the kind of the broadly defined "Sovereign Legislator of the Universe" (1899 Constitution), or "Divine Providence" (1935 and 1973 Constitutions) than the Christians' God or the Muslims' Allah.

And our constitutions, while giving recognition to the free exercise of religion as a basic right since 1935, have also given equal recognition to the right of the individual not to invoke God: from the President of the Philippines down, officials have the option of making an affirmation, instead of a solemn oath before God, when assuming office. The principle here is that all Filipino citizens owe allegiance to the State, created by the people in their sovereign capacity; it is the Constitution that acts as the guarantor of the right of every individual to belong, or not belong, to a religion. However, as citizens you have definite, unavoidable and indisputable rights and obligations not only to the State, but to each other. That is why the anthem must come first; it is what demonstrates our community and our nationhood, the very things that permit an invocation to even be held afterwards. Were we, for example, a patently anti-religious state, we would not have an invocation, period; were we a theocratic state, we would have no choice as to the kind of invocation we could make—and in recent years we have seen invocations taking many different forms. What should be a simple matter, dictated not only by logic and our past, has become a subject of debate, which shouldn't be—at least, not in a society that genuinely believes in the separation of Church and State, and which honors our heroes, beginning with Rizal.

Each citizen—except the minorities, such as the Jehovah's Witnesses, that have been identified in jurisprudence—is obliged to respect, honor and obey the Constitution, and to demonstrate the same attitude toward our symbols of nationhood. If someone were to refuse to rise during the playing of the national anthem, we would, I expect, be offended, not the least because the law, in general, obliges us to show respect for country, flag and anthem. If someone were to refuse to participate in a prayer, we would expect him to be polite and still remain standing during an invocation, but we would not require him to actively participate; and indeed, under the law we cannot compel someone to honor God. This is the difference between being a citizen of a State and being a member of a religious group allowed by the State to freely practice his faith.

Sleepwalking through Edsa

Young Blood

Alexis Ian P. Dela Cruz

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I COULD SAFELY REGARD MYSELF AS A TYPICAL *PROBINSYANO*: a barrio boy—so used to the cool breeze, the wide green fields, the tranquil blue skies, the characteristic scent of the sea and the simplicity of life—who all of a sudden found himself in the big city, pursuing a college education. But please, please, don't picture me as one of those who stepped into Manila, lugging a bundle of live chickens in one hand and a loaded *buri* bag with fresh vegetables sticking out, in the other. But yes, the first time I came to Metropolitan Manila, I was alone, with little money in my pocket, but with a lot of hope and courage in my heart.

The Manila I knew from news accounts was a nasty, unruly, bustling metropolis of about 10 million residents, not counting the transients; a metropolis flush with glitz, glitter and grandeur in the midst of crime and poverty; modern, dynamic and breathtaking in sounds and sights, yet unmindful of the debilitating pollution and permissiveness and lack of discipline that have crept on to its streets and into its air.

But Manila, centuries after the Adelantado Miguel Lopez de Legazpi founded it in 1571 and declared it *"Insigne y Siempre Leal Ciudad"* (The Distinguished and Ever Loyal City), remains the restless and vibrant heart of the "Islands," the cradle (and sometimes, the tomb) of many dreams. Including mine.

And so, with lofty dreams, off I went to this cradle—from the sleepy coast that was the only world of my childhood. Earlier, I had received notice of my admission to a Metro college. As may be normal to any *promdi* going to the city for the first time, the thought of having to live in Metro Manila filled me with anxiety. I expected some culture shock.

The moment I stepped into the Manila-bound bus, I could hear clearly and loudly the "see-you-again" goodbyes—unspoken as they were—on the faces and looks of the loved ones who obviously had resigned to seeing me no longer as often as they used to—or maybe very "rarely"—in the years to come while I build my future in the metropolis.

Of course, with me were my clothes, some *baon*, a cellular phone and everything else I needed to survive the first few weeks of college. All this made up for the heavy luggage that I had a hard time wrestling out of the bus when I alighted from it in busy Baclaran. I was so surprised when a rather grubbily dressed youth about my age offered help. I handed him my bag, which he carried to the nearest jeep bound for the MRT Taft station. After a curt "Thank you" from me, he smiled and waved heartily as the jeep sped off. I couldn't have imagined city folks being nicer.

The jeep stopped at the unloading zone at the foot of the MRT station. "How law-abiding," I thought, beginning to doubt the news accounts that introduced me to the Manila of my expectations. I joined one of the neat queues of people going up the stairs to the station. The *promdi* in me almost wanted to cry out, *"Ganito pala dito"* in amazement. The guard smiled at everyone who passed by, and I wondered why he didn't inspect our things. I surmised there was no need for it; nothing could have possibly gone wrong.

As I waited in line for a train ticket, I thought of calling my Nanay to tell her of my whereabouts. When it was my turn at the ticket counter, I instinctively placed my phone near the teller's window. I was about to walk away when the person next to me called my attention and gave me my phone.

It was 6:30 a.m. when I boarded the north-bound MRT train, but even then all its seats were practically occupied, though MRT Taft was the first station. Upon seeing how heavy my luggage were (the weight probably showed on my face), about two or three people offered me their seats. Thus, I managed to sit throughout my entire first MRT journey.

At the next stations, I saw that the commuters waiting for the train did not step in at once; they gave way to the ones alighting. Outside, the sun was shining brightly. Vehicles on the highway moved smoothly; buses dropped their passengers at designated areas. I had become totally convinced I was wrong about the Manila that I knew from news accounts. How could I have known a wonderful Monday morning on Edsa could lull me into blissful complacence?

I was dozing off when I heard the MRT sound system blaring off: "Quezon Avenue Station," which was my stop. I stood up and prepared to get out of the train. But even before I could take a step, I found myself being pushed out of the train by a rushing swarm of outgoing passengers, unmindful of the *promdi* wrestling with a heavy load in their midst. I never had such rough experience in my whole life in the province. I woke up to reality, beginning to worry that I might indeed be in for some roughing in the bewildering metropolis I was told about through news accounts.

Off the train, I proceeded to the MRT comfort room, driven there, well, by a little necessity.

It's been some months since I lost my cellular phone to a pickpocket who skillfully dug into my pants' left side pocket—totally escaping my notice—as I zipped my pants up inside the comfort room.

The day I arrived in Manila, I immediately got a feel of the real "city." And I knew that, indeed, I had come to a metropolis of contrasts and contradictions.

Alexis Ian P. Dela Cruz, 17, is a BA Political Science freshman at the University of the Philippines-Diliman.

Notice to Youngblood contributors:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

They Said

No third term

"The rule is that you can't get a third term unless your performance is exceptionally outstanding. We felt that he was not. So we did not agree to a third term."

—Senate Pro Tempore Juan Flavier, explaining why UP College of Law dean Raul Pangalangan had to be replaced by the UP board of regents

Above the water

"In competing against J.D. and Marty, I knew that I was the one trying to get my head above the water."

—Fil-Australian MiG Ayesa, after losing in the finals of "Rock Star: INXS"

Gambling's place in moral sphere

THE MEMBERS OF THE CATHOLIC Bishops' Conference of the Philippines are once again under fire for their seemingly confused views on the moral nature of gambling. The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" states that "gambling or games of chance are not in themselves contrary to justice. They become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. However, the passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement." (CCC No. 2413)

This is what the Catholic Church really teaches about gambling. As a form of amusement, it is not morally evil. It becomes morally unacceptable when one becomes hooked on it and neglects his duties especially to his family. It is not good to gamble when one does not have enough sources to cover his or her financial obligations. Much less when one, instead of working, depends on gambling for a living.

The Church does not encourage people to engage in gambling because it could lead to addiction and eventually to many forms of social disorders. I think, the confusion about the morality of gambling lies in the fact that there are illegal gambling activities, such as *jueteng*.

Games of chance such as jueteng are immoral because they are contrary to justice. The government cannot collect taxes on jueteng which only benefits a few people and their "protectors." This kind of operation in effect steals money from the people and what's due the government.

In the real world, people are just too weak to control their gambling impulses. We have had many cases of people neglecting their responsibilities and duties, thus adversely affecting their family and community life.

It is, therefore, better to stay away from gambling and to engage instead in other forms of amusement. Moreover, there are greater chances of earning more by labor and hard work than by gambling which, from what the word connotes, depends on chance.

For the record, I am neither a bishop nor a priest. I am simply a Christian trying to know and understand my faith.

—JESUS NICODEMUS LARIOSA,
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Some of the reasons why empires fall

IT SEEMS THAT WE AS A PEOPLE do not stop to think of what happens to men and women whom we elect to high offices. Some of them seem to possess a noble character, high ideals, magnanimous outlook and deep spirituality when they join government. But, almost always, after they are inducted into office, the road for them goes downhill.

George Santayana once said that "those who fail to learn from the past are condemned to repeat it." And so, in the case of the Filipinos, history keeps repeating itself.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is a case in point. When she became President, some thought a political messiah had appeared. She promised not to tell a lie. She promised and assured that all her acts would be transparent. She even asked the Filipinos to pray for her and she seemed to be genuinely sincere and interested in serving the public.

So what happened?

She said she will not run for the presidency. But she did run! And we all know about the "Hello Garci" tapes. She said she was sorry. For what, she did not say. And the latest, the Venable contract. Transparency, Philippine style?

Some people say that she was phony right from the beginning, deceiving the people to get the position. But I don't buy that.

Perhaps, what's happening could be best explained by what the Greek philosopher Socrates confessed long, long ago. He said, "Do you suppose that I should have lived as long as I have if I had moved in the sphere of public life, conducting myself in that sphere like an honorable man, and always upheld the cause of right, and conscientiously set this end above all other things? Not by a very long way, gentlemen, neither would any other man."

And Plato once said, "That politician who curries favor with the citizens, and indulges them, and fawns upon them, and has a presentiment of their wishes, and is skillful in gratifying them, he is esteemed as a great statesman."

The pressures of high office must be that enormous. It would take a truly great man or woman to occupy Malacañang—and remain a great man or woman.

In his book "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," Edward Gibbon mentioned five reasons for the empire's fall, and two of these are (1) too much taxes, and (2) too much love for sports.

Newspapers have reported that Manny Pacquiao has been given a hero's welcome or words to that effect.

And it is sad but true that the coverage of the value added tax has been expanded to meet all the giveaway schemes local and national politicians can dream of.

By the way, we are now in the "ber" months, and we can feel the coldness of dawn. During these times, even politicians can be seen with their hands in their own pockets.

—FRANCISCO T. CARASIG JR.,
Inagawan Sub-Colony, IPPF,
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LETTERS

Blind Filipinos?

MAY I REACT TO WINNIE MONSOD'S column "Moving on." (PDI, 9/24/05) I also have friends who believe that we should not drag our country's economy down with protest rallies like those held in Makati. And it's quite surprising that they too, just like her friend, voted for Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Their stand is to let GMA do what she has to do and let GMA finish her term.

But I cannot understand why a lot of people cannot see that it is not the rallies dragging the country to ruin, but the President who continues to lie about her involvement in the electoral fraud of 2004; the President who promised to answer all the accusations against her in an impeachment trial but then employed every dirty trick to have the complaints against her thrown out on technicalities; the President who would let foreigners influence our processes in amending our Constitution; the President who appoint into her Cabinet people of dubious loyalty to the Philippines, like Norberto Gonzales; the President who is a doctorate in economics but can't run the economy efficiently and only knows how to spend the country's meager financial resources to keep herself in power.

In the Bible, it was not the prophets calling on the people to go back to God who invited the destruction of Israel; it was the people who kept their mouths shut and eyes blinded to the injustice and lies around them who destroyed Israel.

If the Filipinos would like to live in a lie, then so be it.

—REX EVERETT M. TIBUS,
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Myth of the condoms

I READ IN THE SEPT. 7 ISSUE OF the INQUIRER a news item titled "Coming: condoms at work." According to the report, "workers will soon be receiving contraceptives right inside their offices."

Population growth is not our problem. Poverty is not caused by too many people but by graft and corruption, which leads to unequal distribution of wealth.

The Newsweek article "Birth dearth" by Michael Meyer dated Sept. 27, 2004, made this observation: "Remember the population bomb? The new threat to the planet is not too many people but too few." Europe, the United States and some Asian countries, like Singapore, have already realized this phenomenon and initiated programs on dating and marriage. And these countries have enacted laws encouraging their families to have more children since they are already suffering from aging populations. They have even given incentives for couples to have more children. And we are doing just the opposite.

Our country still has a healthy birth-and-death ratio. We have to maintain that. Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore once said that the best resource of Singapore is its people, then why are we trying to curb population growth? More people would mean more demand for our products. Why do you think our malls are so crowded?

A diminished labor force and an increasing aging population are now a burden to developed countries. The one-child policy of China has led to a 4-2-1 problem, meaning, one child will be potentially responsible for taking care of two parents and four grandparents. The developed countries have dumped these contraceptives in our country because their use has caused them more problems than solutions. We have to be smarter and see through their ploy.

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) said it did not consult the Church because it would surely give the program "a knockout punch." It will receive a stronger knockout punch from economists.

—ROSIE B. TAGANAS,
296 Old Evertex Rd.,
Barangay Tulo, Calamba City,
Laguna 4027

Cory's lamentable decision

IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT FORMER President Corazon Aquino has decided to join the oust Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo movement and take to the streets. After two Edsa revolutions, people now know that People Power does not make lasting change. The opposition who wants to oust GMA by hook or by crook will only start Paulo Freire's oppressed-and-oppressor cycle all over again: the oppressed become oppressors once they gain power. (Freire was popular with informal educators in the late 20th century for his concern for the oppressed.)

What Cory should do is take advantage of the situation and dare the opposition to pass laws reforming our electoral process and provide funds for that purpose. We need to clean up our voters' lists, change the way election returns are counted and reported, and set more stringent qualifications for elective positions.

As for the party-list representatives, what have they done to improve the quality of life or the condition of the people they represent? Have they created jobs? This is what Cory Aquino should ask those who seek her endorsement. "Show me first you mean the country good. Otherwise, allow me to enjoy my old age." (P.S. Filipinos will have a nice day, if once a week the media will report nothing about politics, just good news about ordinary people doing good.)

—INGRID YAP,
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Bring 'lumpia' when you come to 'Amerika'

I HAD TO LAUGH AT LUIS TEODORO'S DEscription of how horrible life is in America. (PDI, 9/30/05) The America I live in is not the "Amerika" of his nightmare.

It is true that about 30,000 people are shot dead here every year, but half of those are suicides. Most are criminals, mostly dying by the hand of rival criminals over drug deals.

The professor is correct: there are school shootings in America; about a dozen children shot dead in schools every year. However, about 60 people in America are struck dead by lightning every year. The professor makes a mountain out of a molehill.

I was surprised to read his claim that one out of every 47 US residents are victims of violent crimes. I don't know anyone who has been such a victim. I've only read about it in the newspaper. The only place where I was robbed was in Manila, when a traffic cop demanded a P400-bribe from me.

I was also surprised to hear how racist the professor considered America. I never hear any of those racist slurs that he says Americans use all the time. They are just not acceptable in polite society here. Using them marks you as something of a crude buffoon, somebody to avoid.

The professor's description of bad treatment of non-whites at airport security checkpoints simply does not match my experience. I am a middle-aged white guy, yet security people search my shoes for bombs every time I fly. They haven't found any yet. I seem to be picked every third time to have my bags swabbed for explosives residue as women and non-white people walk on by.

Saying America is like Nazi Germany is as silly as saying Luzon is like Hirohito's Japan.

While stationed at Clark Air Base, I have flown over much of the Philippines at low level. My memories are mostly of how beautiful it is. Beautiful blue little coves hidden in dewy green mountains. The red roofs of Baguio. The thatched roofs in villages among billowing rice fields in Luzon. Corregidor swimming like a tadpole in Manila Bay. I roamed around the ground quite a bit, too, meeting Filipinos from all walks of life. They were wonderful people. I liked them. None of my old military friends has anything but nice things to say about them. We all enjoyed our stay in the Philippines.

I see Filipinos here in Washington, D.C. all the time. Their kids have a big future now. There is plenty of opportunity to get ahead here but you have to work hard at it.

I have a Filipino classmate from high school. A high school friend married a cute Filipino whose family moved from Olongapo to Texas. If Filipinos are ill-treated here, it's news to us.

So don't let the professor talk you out of visiting America. Generally, America treats its tourists pretty well. Get out of the big city and drive through the American heartland. You'll find yourself more than welcome. And if you don't mind, bring some *lumpia*. We can't get any here. I love that stuff.

—STEVE GREGG,
former resident of Angeles City,
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Protect the country from unscrupulous majority

THE MAJORITY RULE. THIS IS THE BEDROCK of democracy. Honest and conscientious men who bind themselves together for the common good make for a strong democracy, especially when they constitute the majority. What we see today in the Senate and in the House of Representatives is simply a majority who have committed themselves to an evil purpose which they have in common—the betrayal of public trust and the spirit of democracy. This betrayal must end.

The Constitution will be rewritten soon. The exercise will present an opportunity for the framers of the next constitution to ensure that our country and people be never again held captive by an unscrupulous ruling majority. They must put an end to the abuses of the dominant party system. This is but one of the reforms the country badly needs in our political system.

The other equally important task is to strengthen the mechanism for fighting corruption in government.

—CESAR M. DE LOS REYES,
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Is PVAO killing our veterans softly?

IN EXASPERATION, I AM WRITING TO COMplain about the very long time it is taking the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office to process my Old Age Pension application (veteran). It was filed on Jan. 10, 1992 or well over 13 years ago.

I have learned through a recent TV program that the PVAO prioritizes the applications of veterans who are 80 years old and above. I am financially hard-up. I treasure very much each passing day.

I have submitted all the documents asked by Helen P. Fuellas, chief, Old Age Pension Division, PVAO. How long will I still have to wait? Is this government heartless?

—FRANCISCO D. JACLAD,
World War II veteran,
Purok 07, Malasag, Barangay Gusa 9000,
Cagayan de Oro City

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INQBOX Question of the Week

Your message to the 4 Filipino boxing champions: Brian Viloria, Rey " Boom Boom " Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Manny Pacquiao?

Texters hus messages R printd in Tuesday's INQBOX *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer t-shirt! ☺*

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Recruitment racket in Japan bared

BAGUIO CITY—LAW ENFORCERS HAVE UNlocked a secret arrangement between some Japanese descendants in Northern Luzon and an illegal recruitment group, which has allegedly been buying their identities for use in facilitating the entry of undocumented workers into Japan.

Senior Supt. Marvin Bolabola, Cordillera director of the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said they discovered these deals when they cracked down on Yasashi Tutorial, a Japanese language school, which was allegedly being used as a front for an illegal recruitment operation.

Reports about Yasashi were picked up by Japanese news services and published in Tokyo newspapers last week.

Promises

Jose Matias, legal officer of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) in the Cordillera, said more than 50 of Yasashi's students complained about being promised jobs in Sony Corp., one of the biggest companies in Japan and in the world.

"They were being offered special visas for Japanese descendants, which expedite their entry into Japan," Matias said.

He said the special visas have become convenient entry tools to elude Japan's restrictive policies on migration and overseas employment.

Most of the complainants have filed estafa cases against Yasashi's owners and officials at the office of the city prosecutor.

Bolabola said the school stopped operating in September, when authorities began investigating its staff. He said the school's registered owner had left the city.

Cohorts

Some of its teachers are Japanese descendants themselves but Bolabola said no evidence linked them to the recruitment operations.

The CIDG has also investigated Yasashi's links to other international language schools operating in the country to determine whether a larger syndicate is at work here.

"So far, we have come up empty. We were asked to investigate another Japanese school in Baguio, but it appears to be legitimate," he told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

Bolabola said most language schools in the city cater to Koreans.

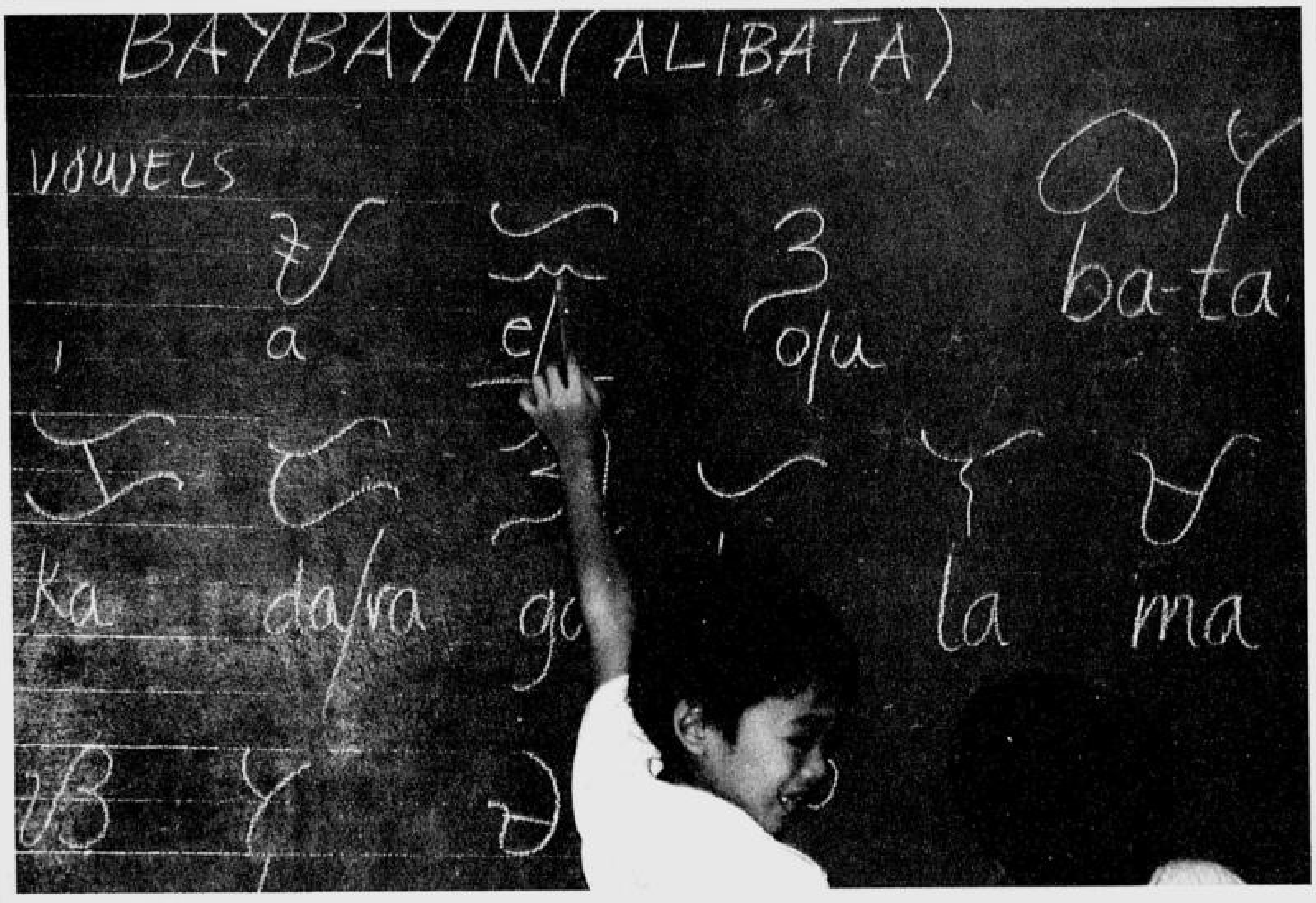
Matias said labor officials are now discussing measures to coordinate language school licensing with the DOLE to enable government to flush out other illegal recruitment operations.

He said the proliferation of language and training schools have become "money-making ventures" that do not bring results.

Opportunities

"Many care giving schools have been set up, for example, when Canada announced the demand there for caregivers, but in the end, only 1 percent of the people who paid for training got employed in Toronto," Matias said.

Language schools are administered by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) but many are operating using business licenses issued by the city government, Bolabola said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



EARLY LESSON

GRACE CANTAL ALBASIN/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Writing *alibata* or *baybayin* amuses these Grade 2 pupils at the St. John's School in Malaybalay City. The writing lesson was given during the school's art week that promotes indigenous culture.

Mayors say terror suspects can't set foot in their areas

GLAN, SARANGANI PROVINCE—The three mayors of the Jose Abad Santos-Glan-Sarangani Cooperation Triangle (JAGS-CT) said not a single member of the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) has ever entered their areas.

Mayor Enrique Yap Jr., of Glan town in Sarangani province, told the INQUIRER that since the creation of the triangle, a strict monitoring of illegal aliens, especially coming from Indonesia, has been adopted.

Yap, also JAGS-CT president, admitted that Jose Abad Santos and Sarangani towns in Davao del Sur and his town remain the entry point for Indonesians coming to Mindanao.

Travel by boat to Indonesia from these towns only takes about four hours.

Located at the southern-most tip of Mindanao, it would take three days by sea for goods and products from the three towns to reach either Visayas or Luzon.

Mayors Jerry Cawa of Sarangani town and Alex Wangkay of Jose Abad Santos in Davao del Sur said they were confident that despite their towns' close distance to Indonesia, JI operatives would not be able to enter the country through their areas.

The Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) has estimated that there are about 4,000 Indonesians residing in the JAGS-CT area.

Cooperation

The BID has also been cooperating with other agencies to ensure that JI operatives could not take advantage of the heavy presence of Indonesian nationals in the area.

The JI has been working with local terror groups, including the Abu Sayyaf, to sow terror not only in Mindanao but in other parts of the country.

The United States and the Philippine military have said that some of the bomb explosions blamed on the Abu Sayyaf were signature JI, or similar in mechanisms to the ones used in the Bali bombings.

In Cotabato City, the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in Central Mindanao said that terrorists continue to threaten peace and security.

"The threat by al-Qaida-allied terror cells in Mindanao continue to sow fear among residents by sending letters and text messages to (town) mayors and other local officials," Silvino Cinches, NBI director, said.

Col. Ruperto Pabustan, commander of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade, said soldiers are on heightened alert against "suspicious and even innocent-looking individuals" who may be couriers of improvised explosive devices.

Since the terror alert went up, the police and the military put up checkpoints one after the other.

Targets

Young and newly trained JI members in Central Mindanao struck in August choosing the progressive town of Kabacan in North Cotabato as its first target, according to Senior Supt. Mayo Laurel, North Cotabato police director.

Midsayap, North Cotabato Mayor Romeo Araña said text messages and phone calls from unidentified individuals about bomb attacks in his town prompted him to alert police and military forces.

In Zamboanga City, the police and the military are also keeping a tight watch over the celebration of the Zamboanga Hermosa Festival.

Supt. Henry Lozanes, city police director, confirmed the persistent threats but said the police "don't want to glamorize the reported threats."

"There is always a threat. We get information about planned bombing activities, but there is no specific, so everyday, intelligence units evaluate all the information," Task Force Zamboanga chief Col. Edgardo Gidaya said.

In 2002, 11 persons were killed, including a US serviceman, while more than 200 were wounded when several bombs exploded during the Zamboanga Hermosa festivities. *Aquiles Zonio, Julie Alipala and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Prostitution a growing problem in Davao, says group

DAVAO CITY—AT LEAST 400 children and teenagers comprise the documented number of prostituted women and children here.

But the number is actually just a little fraction of what non-government organization Talikala Incorporated's estimate of 6,000 prostituted women and children in this city.

Most of the unregistered prostituted women and children are called freelancers or "strikers."

Lourdesita Chan, coordinator of Mindanao Working Group on Reproductive Health, Sexuality and Gender of the Ateneo de Davao University, said poverty remains as the main reason women and children become commercial sex workers.

But in a study she conducted with fellow Ateneo educators a few years back, they found that over poverty, women end up as sex workers because of a history of sexual abuse.

"While the Filipino community puts premium on sexual purity and innocence, these women seem to have lost that sense … it appears that they don't have anything to lose so they end up in the flesh trade," Chan said.

Another sad reality that the group found is that most prostituted women experience a pattern of abuse as they move out of their province to the city.

"These women also experience abuse by their bosses," Chan said stressing these abuses against women and children are motivated by the patriarchal culture still observed by Filipino society.

"Here, women are seen as commodities designed to satisfy the need of men," Chan said.

Chan added that there are glaring similarities between children engaged in the flesh trade and their adult counterparts.

"These children know that while they are earning money for what they are doing, their future is being smashed in the process," Chan said.

"It is also sad to know that some parents are also serving as their children's pimps," she added.

Councilor Angela Librado-Trinidad, a known women and children's rights advocate, said that the ever growing number of sex workers shows the present condition of women and children.

"The sad plight of our children and women who, by their choice or dictate of present circumstances, push them to use their bodies for a living profiles the feudal patriarchal system that remains dominant to the present, as well as the state's deplorable law enforcement system" Librado said.

Talikala Inc. said the most common perpetrators of prostituted women are customers (18 percent), live-in partners (17.7 percent), police authorities (9.5 percent) establishment owners or managers (5.5 percent), and pimps (5.3 percent).

"With these sad realities, we are faced with the fact that even children are not spared from the proliferation of indecent publicity from certain establishments regarding the sex trade, which of late, subliminally poses as front for luring customers to patronize both children and prostituted women," Librado said. *Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Incoming CBCP head backs new Mass attendance rules

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE CATHOLIC faithful should not be confused with guidelines on the Celebration of the Eucharist because these are only meant to "make more genuine the Catholic way of worship," said Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

Amid questions and confusion on a set of guidelines on the celebration of Mass, Lagdameo said, the faithful should be guided by the principle that their practices and rituals must not disregard and detract from the holiness and presence of the Eucharist.

"This instruction from the Sacred Congregation of Worship is a sign to make more genuine our Catholic way of worship because sometimes the customs that have been developed in some parishes and places may be exaggerated," said Lagdameo, incoming president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

He told reporters on Friday that it is good "to have some certain uniformity and changes that are still in conformity with what worship is supposed to be."

A set of guidelines was issued at the 20th National Meeting of Diocesan Directors Liturgy on Sept. 12 to 16 in Tacloban City, Leyte. The delegates advised the faithful to do away with "indecorous movements" during Mass.

The set of guidelines have been perceived by some as a ban on holding of hands while praying "The Lord's Prayer" and other practices during Mass as well as dancing and going around when offering the sign of peace.

It has also raised questions on how the Holy Communion should be received.

Fr. Anscar Chupungco, executive secretary of the CBCP's Commission on Liturgy, said that there is no prohibition on the holding of hands during the singing of "The Lord's Prayer."

Lagdameo said he was unaware if there was any new guideline on the holding of hands.

Sagada officials impose ban on 'ikik'

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAGADA, MT. PROVINCE—OFFICIALS here have endorsed a resolution banning bird catching, traditionally known as "ikik," for 10 months starting last August due to the threat of the avian influenza.

Despite the resolution, local bird catchers still frequent Mt. Ampacao to continue the traditional practice, Councilor Dave Gulian said.

Sagada, a popular mountain resort town, is among the areas in Northern Luzon frequented by migratory birds.

Last week, the councilors, government doctors and barangay leaders met to reassess if the resolution was being followed.

Gulian said they found that some hunters also frequent Lake Danum, a popular picnic area for residents, to catch birds.

The Philippines has been free of a deadly bird flu strain that has ravaged Southeast Asian poultry industries and killed more than 60 people.

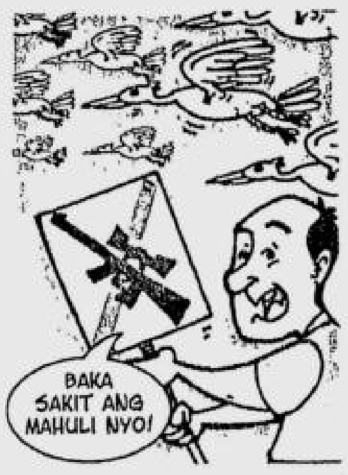
Gulian said despite the local government's warning and news reports about the devastation wrought by the disease, many residents do not feel threatened.

"People here do not look worried at all. For some, *ikik* has become a family affair, many go to the mountains in groups to catch birds," he said.

"[Reports on the] virus came at a time when there is a worldwide economic crisis. For some residents, *ikik* is a livelihood, that is why they do not care about these reports on bird flu," Gulian said.

However, barangay leaders have been monitoring entry points in certain villages to discourage bird catching.

An information drive on bird flu was held in the villages of Ambasing, Bugang and Pide, Gulian said.


BAKA SAKIT ANG MAHULI NYO!

Jed Angway, president of the Sagada Environmental Guides Association (Sega), said tourists might avoid the town if residents would not take the warning seriously.

But Angway said residents here find it difficult to stop *ikik* because it has evolved into a social affair.

"This practice is hard to stop because residents love going up the mountains and experience bird catching. Despite the bird flu, people still want to practice it. It is hard to break the tradition," he said.

Angway said bird catchers here believe that bird flu-infected migratory birds would not survive the long flights from other countries.

But Dr. Evelyn Capuyan, municipal health officer, said migratory birds are potential carriers of the disease.

"Migratory birds may look healthy, but some of them may still be carriers of the disease," she said.

Angway said at least 20 bird catchers are known to regularly climb Mt. Ampacao or visit Lake Danum to do the *ikik*, a practice done at night.

He said the hunters usually catch at least 500 birds of different species in a single trip.

Birds that are caught are either sold or eaten. Some residents use migratory birds as ingredients in local dishes.

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

KIDS during a seminar on good manners PHOTOS BY JOFELLE TESORIO

School is run by volunteers, donations

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
Puerto Princesa City

AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF PUERTO PRINCESA City lies a little school run by volunteers and operating through donations.

The school called the Saint Ezekiel Moreno Parish Boarding School was founded by a priest who thought that development could only come through education.

It is here about an hour and a half away from the city proper where 70 poor children are trying to carve their future away from home.

Fr. Broderick Pabillo started the school in Barangay Macarascas in 1999 when he was transferred to the Parish of St. Ezekiel Moreno, a parish that covers eight barangays in the northern part of the city.

He had 14 scholars in 1999 and this grew to 44 the next year. But many of them dropped out because they had to walk about six kilometers daily or board in other people's houses where their parents could not look after them.

So he thought of putting up a boarding school that was exclusive for girls because he was worried for the safety of the girls. He said "they are the most vulnerable and often marry earlier."

With the help of the Makati and Parañaque Rotary Clubs, through the supervision of the Rotary of Puerto Princesa, a two-story girls' dorm was constructed in 2001 on a donated piece of land at the village outskirts.

The ground floor houses the girls' dormitory and that of the house parents. The second floor is used as a library and classroom.

The boarding school had started with 24 children but the number has since grown to 70.

Last year, the parish leaders decided to open up a boys' dorm, located a bit far from the girls' dorm.

Non-graded evaluation

The school follows the Angelicum school system that introduced the non-graded evaluation system and caters to the individual needs of students.

The students can advance to the next level depending on the result of the evaluation by the Angelicum College, which is accredited by the Department of Education. Once they pass the high-school module, they receive a diploma from the Angelicum College.

The children are taught in classes according to their Year in School (YS). YS 1-7 can be compared to the elementary level in regular schools while those in YS 8-11 are in high school.

Aside from the basic subjects, students are also taught life skills training to make them self-reliant.

Volunteers

The students are taught by volunteer-teachers, among them Canadian-born Beth Borromeo who handles English classes. She doesn't speak Filipino well but her students might very well adapt some of her slang.

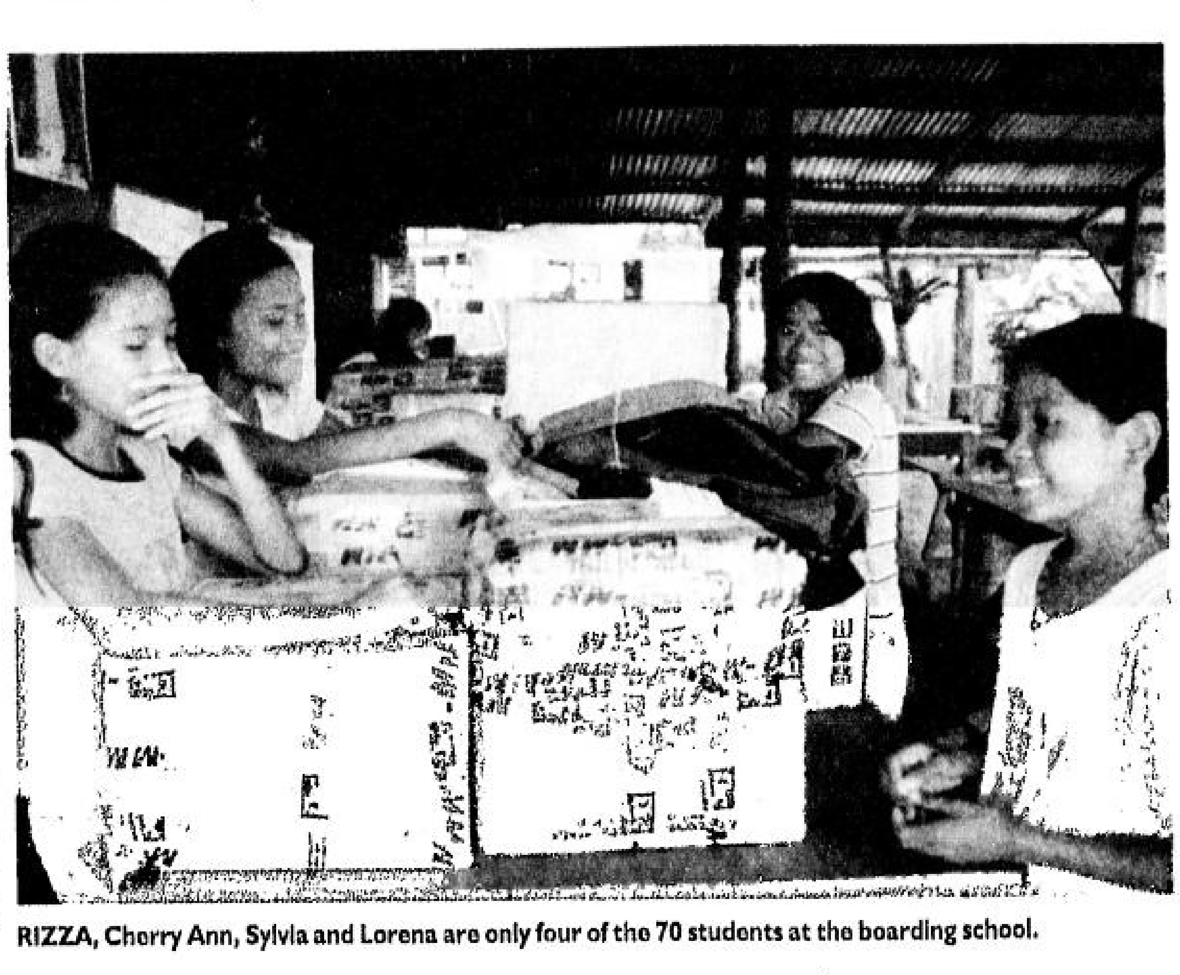
During a prayer before meal, the kids pronounced the English prayer perfectly.

Borromeo is one of three fellows of the Jesuit Volunteers Foundation assigned to the boarding school.

The volunteers, who live without television and the Internet and away from their families, said they were happy to see the children learn and graduate to college.

"At the end of the day, I'm tired. But I'm buoyed by the feeling of fulfillment, that something good happened today or that I did something today," Borromeo said.

VOLUNTEER-teacher Beth Borromeo teaches the kids about self worth and actualization.



RIZZA, Cherry Ann, Sylvia and Lorena are only four of the 70 students at the boarding school.

THE CHILDREN help out in some tasks, such as carrying teaching modules.

Rhea Cobre, an Ateneo de Manila University graduate of Management Information System, said her four years in the university taught her a lot about helping people so before she graduated, she felt that her calling was into volunteer work. She teaches Math and Filipino to the children.

"I have learned to adjust to a simple life," she said. Rhea shares the teaching load in Math with another volunteer, Jika David. She thinks that the boarding school needs more volunteers so they could have more time with students in teaching subjects like Math, Science and English.

Discipline

Another volunteer is Mary Joy "Tita Joy" Chavez, 29, who started work at the boarding school in 2002.

She interviews the students and guides them through such responsibilities as helping in the kitchen and other household chores.

To instill discipline, the children are taught morals and values. The day starts and ends with a prayer.

Although it is always a challenge to be with kids, Chavez said her love for them just grows bigger everyday.

This was also the reason former banker Alice Tamparon found herself in the boarding school.

"I love children. This is the place where I have found happiness and confirmed that God loves me," said Tamparon, who had a thriving career in a bank in Manila when she decided to quit in 2003.

"When I first came here, the students didn't know how to read, even in Filipino. Now, they can already read English. They could read and pronounce the proper way. They already have the confidence to speak in English," she said.

There are four graduating students this year and Tamparon is optimistic that they will pass the exam. She hopes that these kids could be given scholarships to pursue college education. She is certain that they will perform above the average students.

The volunteer work has taken six pounds off Tamparon. In charge of the school's fund raising, she also plans the school's day-to-day operations, including the meals for 80 to 90 people. Their problem now is where to get the food for the boarding school because there is no constant support to rely on.

A congressman regularly sends sacks of rice to the school. The school has a vegetable garden where some of the meals come from. Others donate chairs and supplies.

Those who would like to donate to the Saint Ezekiel Moreno Parish Boarding School may call the Chancery of the Apostolate Vicariate of Palawan at (048)-433-2568

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METROBRIEFS

Aiko fights back

MELENDEZ

BENT on clearing her name, actress-turned-politician Aiko Melendez, who figured in a bar scuffle early this month, has fought back and is bringing her accusers to court. The other day, Melendez filed criminal charges of grave oral defamation, unjust vexation, and intriguing against honor against businesswoman Happy Ongpauco Rivera, Alana Lopez Montelibano, and Ronald Serrano. With counsel Joseph Capistrano, Melendez filed the charges before the City Prosecutor's Office of Makati City a day after Rivera sued the Quezon City councilor for physical injuries and oral defamation before the same office. Capistrano said the charges were meant to seek justice for the "hurtful remarks and malicious unverified statements" Rivera and company allegedly told Melendez at the time of the incident. Melendez also alleged that one of Rivera's friends had touched her chest. Rivera had said the actress hit her right arm with her elbow, causing a painful bruise, when Melendez went past her accusers at an upscale bar in Makati City on Oct. 2. Melendez also allegedly kicked Montelibano's leg. Serrano, on the other hand, said Melendez's bodyguard, PO3 Jun Alvarez, punched him in the face. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Missing lotto winner shows up

A LOTTO jackpot winner, who was earlier reported missing, showed up at a police station in Plaridel, Bulacan yesterday to belie reports that a group led by his neighbor abducted him after he claimed his prize from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. The winner, a 38-year-old rice mill worker in Norzagaray town, also told police he won only P3.9 million in the lottery last month, not P39 million as reported in the media. SP01 Jaime Marcelo, Plaridel police investigator, said the lotto winner had filed a statement with the police to correct reports about his alleged abduction as reported by his grandfather Francisco Hernandez to the National Bureau of Investigation. Senior Supt. Benedict Michael Fokno, Bulacan police director, said the problem was triggered by a disagreement among the winner's relatives over the sharing of goodwill money (balato). *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Court orders Manila Bay cleanup

By Blanche S. Rivera

MANILA BAY MAY YET HAVE ANOTHER chance at regaining its reputation as one of the richest sources of marine life in the world.

The Court of Appeals (CA) has ordered 11 government agencies to clean up the bay, considered one of the most polluted bodies of water in the country.

Covered by the order of the CA's second division are the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, Local Water Utilities Administration, Department of Education, Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine National Police Maritime Group, Bureau of Fisheries, Philippine Ports Authority, Metro Manila Development Authority, and the Department of Budget and Management.

In a 12-page decision, the court ordered the agencies to draft a rehabilitation plan for Manila Bay. "The decision does not require the agencies to perform tasks outside their usual functions," the court said.

The agencies were merely directed to consolidate and coordinate their efforts in rehabilitating and cleaning up the Manila Bay.

The court said the bay had exceeded the acceptable level for fecal coliform, 200 mpn (most probable number/100ml). Fecal coliform are bacteria from human and animal waste. The Manila Bay, which the DENR already declared as unsafe for humans, has 80,000 mpn of fecal coliform despite various government rehabilitation programs.

The CA's decision capped a six-year legal battle waged by environment lawyer Antonio Oposa Jr., University of the Philippines law students and Manila Bay area residents who wanted to compel the national government to rehabilitate Manila Bay.

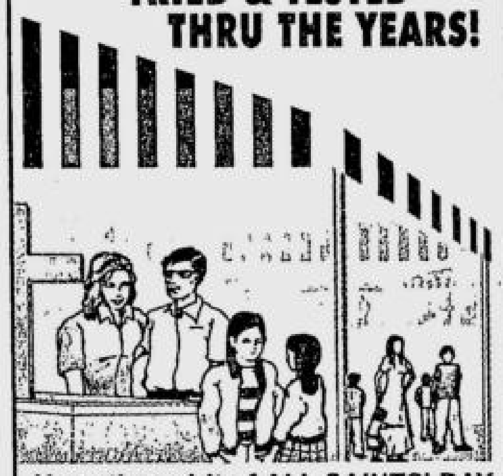
"This is a grand slam," Oposa told the INQUIRER, admitting it seemed like a long shot that a court would order the government to clean up such a huge body of water.

Oposa had filed a class suit against the 11 government agencies in 1999 on the basis of Presidential Decree 1152, the old Philippine Environment Code requiring the government to upgrade water quality in the country.

"The Manila Bay lies at the apex of the Sulu-Sulawesi Marine Triangle, the richest marine waters on earth," he said. "Its sad state is a reflection of our irresponsibility in the management of this national and natural treasure."

The decision, written by Justice Eliezar de los Santos with the concurrence of Justices Eugenio Labitoria and Jose Reyes, was issued on Sept. 28 but was made known to the parties concerned only yesterday.

THE SOUND OF BAMBOO
PO1 Editha Salenga (left) and PO1 Alex Estallo play the *angklung*, a local musical instrument made of bamboo, for visitors at Camp Crame yesterday. Both belong to the newly-formed 18-member PNP Bamboo Band.
LYN RILLON



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Col. Pablo Viray, MD—one of a kind

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

SHIRO KATO WAS TAKING HIS GIRLfriend home when their cab was stopped by policemen at a checkpoint in front of the Manila City Hall. One of the cops then grabbed Kato's clutch bag containing Viagra tablets. The cop demanded a prescription for the anti-impotency drug from Kato, but the Japanese said he saw no reason to bring a prescription wherever he went. The policeman then threatened to take the couple to the police station for possession of an illegal drug. Kato's girlfriend asked what it would take so they could be set free. The cop asked for P15,000.

* * *

Dr. Pablo Viray, who turns 66 today, is one of a kind. He retired six years ago from the Philippine Marine Corps, but has come back as a volunteer reservist with no pay, probably the first retiree to return to military service from retirement. A full-fleged colonel when he retired in 1999, he receives a brigadier general's pension. But as they say in that "fightingest" military outfit, "once a Marine, always a Marine." Viray has volunteered to serve in Sulu because he wants to be where the action is. Every Marine enlisted man loves Doc Viray, who they fondly call "Tops," a Marine slang word for those holding the rank of technical and master sergeant. I met Viray in the early 1990s when he was serving under Brig. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz, then commander of the Marine Forces-South. I thought he was a regular combat officer because he was armed to the teeth.

Apart from ministering to the sick and wounded, Viray also fought the enemy. He has paratrooper's wings, meaning he jumped from planes. I asked him why he returned to the service. "Life has no meaning outside, Mon," he said.

Happy birthday, Pabling.

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C-5 widening met with protests

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Tarra V. Quismundo

ABOUT 800 FAMILIES of retired and active soldiers expressed fears the C-5 Road widening project in Taguig City would mean the loss of their homes. Some affected residents from four villages staged a protest at 2 a.m. yesterday, setting fire to spare tires on the southbound lane of C-5 Road and blocking access with chunks of concrete.

The MMDA Sidewalk Clearing Operations group (SCOG) completed the dismantling of some 250 illegal structures on the southbound stretch of C-5 Road in Taguig City, including houses and commercial establishments. The four affected villages are Panam , ISG, Wildcat and Palar. Police remained on alert to avert an outbreak of violence between residents and the MMDA.

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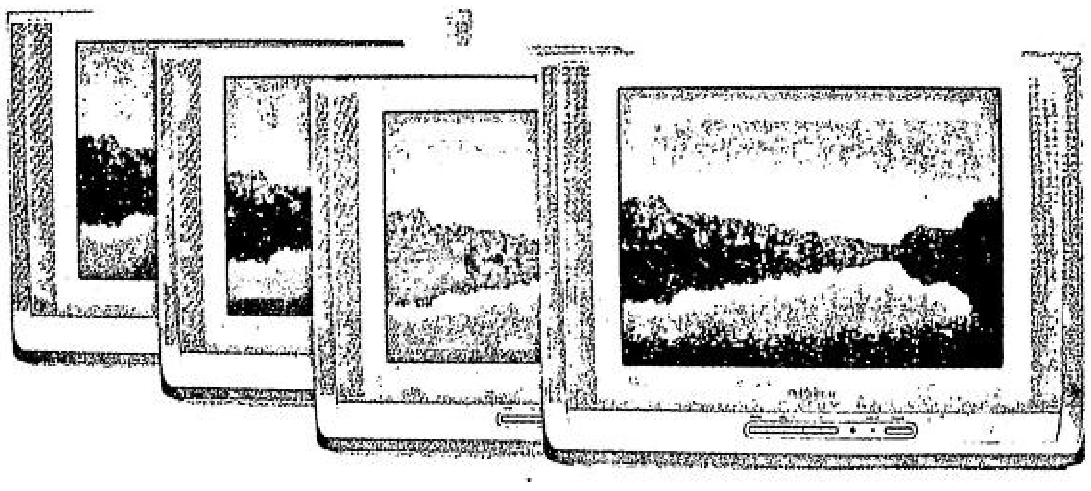

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B. Pacquiao-Hernandez rematch slated in January

A BOBBY PACQUIAO-CARLOS "Famoso" Hernandez rematch is now in the works with the Filipino's promoter favoring a January fight date.

"Promoter Bob Arum has already told us that he wants Bobby and Famoso to do it again in December, although the financial aspect has not been discussed yet," Bobby's co-manager Rex "Wakee" Salud said yesterday.

Salud, who co-manages Bobby with the boxer's more famous elder brother Manny Pacquiao, said they want the rematch to be held in January "to give Bobby (and Hernandez) enough time to rest."

The younger Pacquiao hacked out a split decision victory over Hernandez, a former International Boxing Federation (IBF) super featherweight champion, in their 10-bout last Saturday in Las Vegas.

Talks of a rematch were raised by Hernandez's followers, who considered Bobby's win a fluke.

Salud said that American boxing trainer Freddie Roach is set to arrive in the country in the second week of November to supervise Manny Pacquiao's preparation for Erik Morales. *Salven Lagumbay, contributor*

REUTERS

BOBBY: Willing to do battle.

Task Force SEAG gears up

TASK FORCE SEA GAMES, which is in charge of securing the more than 5,000 athletes and officials for next month's Southeast Asian Games, will be activated on Nov. 15.

Some 15,000 policemen will be fielded in five regions, including Metro Manila, which will play host to events included in the Nov. 27-Dec. 4 sportsfest among 11 nations. The other regions are Central Luzon (3), Calabarzon (4A), Western Visayas (6), and Central Visayas (7).

"We're very closely attending to the security side of the event," according to PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., the Task Force SEA Games chief.

With Southeast Asia still reeling from the Oct. 1 Bali bombings, authorities are not discounting the possibility that the SEA Games might already be in the minds of terrorists.

"This kind of gathering is always a very good opportunity for them to conduct terrorism," said Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, head of the PNP-Intelligence Group. *Luige A. del Puerto*

UAAP: Let DLSU end own probe

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UAAP BOARD WILL LET DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY COMplete its internal investigation of the issue of having unknowingly fielded an ineligible player the last three years before starting its own probe of the unprecedented case.

"Let DLSU complete its investigation," said league secretary-treasurer Dr. Ricardo Matibag of Adamson, this year's UAAP host, yesterday.

"Anyway, they are the ones who opened it, and in fairness to them, let them finish it, then [they will] submit the complete results to the board. That's the time the board will meet."

A similar controversy rocked the league in 1994 when Marlou Aquino was found to have played for Adamson despite academic deficiencies when he presented his school records in his application to turn pro.

As a result, Adamson was suspended for the entire 1994 season.

Painful experience

"It's a very painful experience for La Salle," said Anton Montinola, Far Eastern University's representative to the UAAP board. "I think we should not be hasty. It's best to stand by the sidelines and wait."

La Salle announced Tuesday that it's willing to forfeit its 2004 UAAP men's basketball crown after learning that it had inadvertently fielded an ineligible player in the last three years.

La Salle officials said they're still "awaiting legal clearance" and thus, are "legally constrained not to reveal the name of the player."

The INQUIRER has withheld the name of the player in the last two days. However, numerous message boards on the Internet have already identified the cager as third-year 6-foot-5 center Mark Benitez.

Coach Franz Pumaren, who steered the Archers' title run from 1998 to 2001 and in 2004, also backed off from the issue.

"There's no need for me to comment," he said. "The statement of the school is enough."

ICTSI pullout

The controversy has also added color to ICTSI-La Salle's decision to pull out of the PBL Heroes' Cup on Oct. 29.

"Taking a leave of absence is ICTSI's prerogative," said PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad. "I would like to stress that the PBL doors are open to the team if it wants to return."

League sources, however, said ICTSI had already sent feelers about its decision to pull out long before the ineligibility issue cropped up.

Some members have come up with possible sanctions for La Salle when the board meets on the third week of November.

"If you have an ineligible player, there's no other recourse but forfeit all the games that he played," noted Montinola.

"It really depends on the circumstances," said technical committee chair Ricky Palou. "If the player has falsified his documents, the worst-case scenario we're looking at is that he will be banned from the league. In the case of the school, worst-case scenario is suspension from the league, just like Marlou Aquino's case with Adamson."

Investigation

La Salle is expected to open its investigation by interviewing the questioned player.

Last Tuesday, La Salle executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco released a statement acknowledging that the high school records of a player on its current roster "turned out to be spurious," and was therefore "neither eligible for admission to DLSU nor for participation as a member of DLSU's basketball team."

The statement noted that the Philippine Educational Placement Test Certificate of Rating (PEPTCR) submitted by the player "was not genuine, thus rendering him academically ineligible."

The PEPTCR is an exam a student may take "in lieu of, or in the absence of a high school diploma."

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Real Spicy, Dixie the Younger face tough RP derby rivals

By Edwin Villanueva
Contributor

EXPECT A LOT OF FIREWORKS when current track sensations Real Spicy and Dixie the Younger take on separate rivals in the Philippine Derby Festival on Sunday.

While it may be a tough task ahead for Real Spicy, the road could be less bumpier for Dixie the Younger at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

An Australian imported filly named Wild Orchid is clashing head-on with last year's 2-year-old division champion, prompting experts to predict a two-horse affair in the chase for the P1.18-million first prize in the major event-the Grand Derby.

On the other hand, Dixie the Younger is facing lighter foes in the Juvenile Colts category, giving the homebred galloper of father-and-son Francis and Michael Trillana all the needed room to bounce back from a heartbreaking loss recently.

In his last assignment, Real Spicy lit up an otherwise dull afternoon at the Carmona, Cavite, racetrack when he smashed the old record of 1:31.4 set by Real Top over 1,500 meters six years ago.

The 3-year-old son of Real Quiet and now the leading galloper of the Hermie Esguerra Stable timed 1:31 flat, submitting searing splits of 17.5-23.5-23.5-26.5, in trouncing rival Speed Advantage despite getting no punishment at all from latest partner Antonio Alcasid Jr.

But last Oct. 1, Real Spicy's newly recorded feat was bumped off the books when Wild Orchid clocked 1:30.8.

Prodded vigorously by Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel Jr., the 3-year-old daughter of High Yield had fractions of 18-23.5-24-25 in drubbing her Class-Division opponents.

Before that, Wild Orchid had also ripped the 1,800-meter record when she won the fourth leg of the Imported Series in 1:52.6 (13.5-22.5-25-24-27.5).

Although Wild Orchid may prove to be a pain in the neck, Real Spicy has two plus factors going for him—he's tough to beat at the SLLP, having only lost once in 10 outings, and his experience over the classic distance of 2,000 meters which Wild Orchid has yet to tackle. Real Spicy conquered the long route when he won the Horseman's Cup impressively under Alcasid.

"*Magandang laban yan* (I think it's going to be a great matchup)," chorused Edgardo "Egay" Domingo and Rolando "Bitoy" Lansangan, chief handicappers of the MJCI and Philracom.

Also tipped to get a lot of attention on Derby Day is Dixie the Younger, the Khozaam-Dixie Cup progeny who will be out to erase the stigma of his narrow defeat in the second leg of the Juvenile Championship Series.

Dixie the Younger's fate also depends on the hands of Raquel, who is also expected to guide the Trillanas' returning champion charger Red Star Rising in the coming major stakes races later this year.

Completing the lineup in the Grand Derby are Ocean Deep, Pine Needles and Passing on Passion.

Asistio keeps 3-stroke lead

TONTON ASISTIO STRUGGLED WITH A two-over par 73 but kept his three-stroke lead, this time over Jay Bayron, after three rounds in the Samsung Amateur Tour's fourth leg at The Riviera's in Silang, Cavite.

The 16-year-old Asistio, who started with a 70 and a 69, stayed on top at 212 despite his worst round at Langer's par-71 course so far. He started with a double bogey and stumbled with two more bogeys that nullified the same number of birdies.

Bayron matched par and grabbed second place at 215, sweeping past Michael Bibat, who limped home with a 74 for 216.

Bayron, spearhead of the RP squad that will try to retain its team title in the Hong Kong Amateur Open set Oct. 26-29 in Fanling, came up with two birdies to cap his 37-34 card while Bibat fell back with two bogeys on the last three holes.

Former national amateur champion Jun Bernis turned in the day's best score of one-under par 70 but remained fourth, 10 strokes behind with a 222 total.

Asistio is seeking to become the youngest leg winner in this five-stage series sponsored by Samsung which culminates with the grand finals next year at the newly opened Summit. The event is sponsored by KZG, Custom Clubmakers, Sun Bolt, C-Lium Fiber, Rudy Project, Microtel and Solar Sports Plus and organized by Professional Sports Management Group Inc. (PSMGI) headed by Boy Blue Ocampo. Anthony Fernando stood at 227 after a 76 followed by Rufino Bayron (76-230), Kim Chang Choi (78-231), Mark Fernando (76-234) and Ronnie Torrecampo (82-240).

The final elims of the event, backed by Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee as media partners with the Philippine Airlines as official carrier, will be held next month at the Ayala Greenfields Estate in Laguna.

Pagunsan joins rich Japan tilt

HYOGO, JAPAN—JUVIC PAGUNSAN TESTS his shotmaking skills against the best of Asia today when he tees off in the Japan Open golf championship at the Hirono Golf Club here.

The 27-year-old Filipino ace is one of 21 amateurs—and the only non-Japanese in the event where Toru Taniguchi is the defending champion.

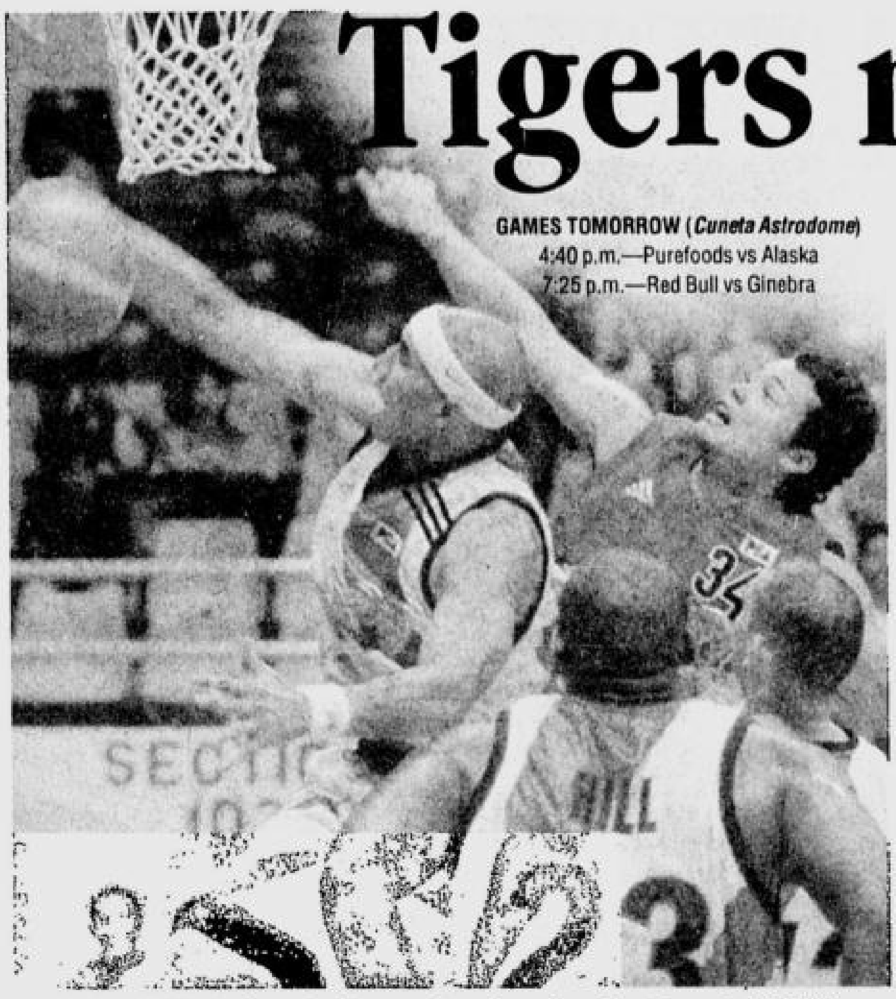
Pagunsan had the chance to sample the par-72 course and gain a little local knowledge after national team buddy Artemio Murakami, who is half-Japanese, agreed to join him and be his caddy.

The winner of the RP Amateurs two weeks ago in Bacolod, Pagunsan will be included in the 12:12 p.m. flight with K. Takahashi, a 55-year-old veteran, and T. Nogami.

Pagunsan will be using this tournament to further sharpen his skills for the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games, Shingo Katayama, the flamboyant Japanese who wears a cowboy hat, Isao Aoki and the legendary Jumbo Ozaki are among the big local names entered.

Craig Parry and Chad Campbell are the PGA stars in the field.

Tigers nip Beermen



GAMES TOMORROW (*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:40 p.m.—Purefoods vs Alaska
7:25 p.m.—Red Bull vs Ginebra

SAN Miguel's Nic Belasco (left) snags the rebound against Coca-Cola's Will Antonio during their game yesterday. ERIK ARAZAS

By June Navarro

ANTIPOLO CITY—ALEX CARCAMO'S PUTBACK WITH A FRACTION OF A SECOND left carried Coca-Cola to its first win of the season at the expense of San Miguel Beer, 79-77, last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center.

Carcamo rose above everybody and tipped the ball in after a potential game-winner by Johnny Abarrientos from 15 feet hit nothing but air.

Game officials checked the instant replay monitor and following a brief discussion, counted the shot. The Beermen dropped to their second straight defeat.

"It was a very good booster for the whole team," said rookie coach Binky Favis, who notched his first win in the league.

Lost in the din of Carcamo's heroics was Talk 'N Text's climb to the solo lead.

The Phone Pals came out big in the second half and pulled away there for a 109-91 victory over the Air21 Express in the second game.

Talk 'N Text grabbed its second win in as many games while Air21 joined six other teams at 1-1.

Rookies Anthony Washington and Macmac Cardona got some measure of revenge at the team that traded them away after making them two of the top picks during the draft.

Cardona, selected No. 5 overall, finished with eight points while Washington, the top pick this season, added seven for Talk 'N Text, which underscored its bench depth by having six players scoring in double figures.

The scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 79—Carcamo 14, Mamaril 14, Peek 13, Miranda 10, Abarrientos 8, Arigo 5, Wainwright 5, Antonio 4, Raneses 2, Juinio 0, Francisco 0.

SAN MIGUEL 77—Seigle 27, Hill 19, Belasco 13, Racela 7, Adriano 6, Tejada 3, Ildefonso 2, Hubalde 0, Villoria 0, Calaguio 0.

Quarters: 17-14, 35-34, 57-50, 79-77

Second Game

TALK 'N TEXT 109—Cantrell 25, Pablo 15, Alapag 13, Belano 13, Telan 12, Taulava 10, Cardona 8, Washington 7, Gelig 4, Carey 2, Avenido 0.

AIR21 91—Ritualo 23, R. De Ocampo 18, Daniels 16, Y. De Ocampo 8, Ferriols 6, Arboleda 6, Tubid 4, Gonzales 3, David 3, Se 2, Fran 2, Canaleta 0, Dacia 0.

Quarters: 20-29, 49-50, 80-68, 109-91

Tribu trips Ozamiz in Game 1 of South series

CEBU CITY—EVEN WITHOUT JOJO Tangkay and JR Quinahan, defending champion Tribu Sugbu subdued Ozamiz Cotta, 82-76, at the start of the Southern Conference finals in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship at the Minglanilla Sports Center here.

Coach Al Solis found an unlikely hero in Bernie Ursal in the absence of Tangkay and Quinahan, who were unavailable due to previous commitments. Ursal sparked a 9-4 run in the third quarter and finished with a career high 17 points on 6-of-7 shooting and 5-of-5 from the line.

The two teams clash tomorrow in Ozamiz. If necessary, the third game will also be played at the Cotta's homecourt. From a slim 50-49 edge in third, the Tribesmen of businessmen Lito Gillamac and Mario King surged ahead, 59-53, on Ursal's and Boyet Guerrero's shooting rampage. With Christian Nicdao and Melfred Sampilo scoring consistently, Ozamiz refused to give up. Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's cagers saw a big opening when Tribu's big man, Marvin Mercado, was thrown out after he verbally assaulted referee Ed Parolena and pushed him twice after the Cebuano was slapped his fifth foul.

But Tribu's other slotman, Rex Mangubat, stepped up to help his team keep its distance going into the closing minutes.

The Southern Conference champion will meet North titlist Cavite in the national finals of the tourney supported by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products (Boy Bawang), Prime Channel, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

Ongpauco, Ramos top World Cup nat'l finals

NATIONAL BOWLER TYRONE ONGPAUCO and veteran campaigner Ellen Ramos pulled a couple of major reversals in local bowling Tuesday by ruling the Bowling World Cup national championship at SM Megamall center.

Ranged against a tough field that included three ex-World Cup champions and one of the leading Asian lady pintopplers, Ongpauco, 30, and Ramos, 43, stood their ground to earn the right to carry the Philippine colors in the international finals on Nov. 13-20 in Ljubjlana, Slovenia.

Ongpauco, fresh from a victory in the Singapore leg of the Asian Bowling Federation Tour early this month, bested youthful JC Tupaz in the two-game roll-off, 458-448, after they had split the first two games and then tied at 246 in the third of the best-of-three, head-to-head men's finals. Ongpauco lost 168-198 in game 1 but bounced back 204-213 in game 2.

Ramos, a former national bowler who has yet to bag an international crown, toppled 1979 World Cup queen Bong Coo, 2-0 (171-170 and 222-175), in the ladies' best-of-three finals.

Ramos, who owns two 299 high games, copped the TBAM Easter Open and ATBA Open Masters titles, but she failed in her three international campaigns in Malaysia, Thailand and Hong Kong.

Coo was a revelation. After a layoff of almost two years, she still made it to the finals at the expense of Apple Posadas, 2-1 (173-197, 177-159 and 206-179) and Jaymee Bautista, 2-1 (193-180, 131-167 and 212-176).

Two other ex-World Cup winners—Paeng Nepomuceno and CJ Suarez—bombed out in the quarterfinals. Nepomuceno lost to Tupaz, 0-2 (179-269 and 189-229).

Last year's champion Liza del Rosario, rated as one of Asia's top lady campaigners, also failed to hurdle the quarters, losing to Bautista, 1-2 (178-190, 212-182 and 194-197).

SPORTSWATCH

MLQU, MMC gain Cusa semis

MANUEL Luis Quezon University and Metro Manila College took different paths in gaining the semifinals of the 2005 Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (Cusa) men's basketball tournament at the CCP gym in Sta. Mesa, Manila. MLQU outclassed PCCR, 67-55, while MMC edged Central Colleges of the Philippines, 67-66, to advance to the crossover semis of the 12-team tournament. MLQU will meet defending champion Philippine Maritime Institute, while MMC will battle elimination round topnotcher World Citi Colleges. World Citi and PMI, however, enjoy twice-to-beat advantages over MMC and MLQU.

Vigan hosts cycling 4th leg

THE FOURTH and final leg of the Second Cycling Search Invitational Series will be held on Nov. 5 in Vigan City. Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson is expected to roll out the welcome mat to the competitors. Vigan Mayor Ferdinand Medina has also extended his all-out support to the criterium races sponsored by Pagcor Casino Filipino, PCSO, Partas Transit, TCI, Philippine Postal Corp., Baluarte-Vigan and Maximum Electronics. In the elite pro class, Orly Villanueva will try to protect his four-point lead against Bernard Luzon for the overall individual championship.

PJ Tierro boosts ATP world rankings

DAVIS Cupper Patrick John Tierro banners the field in the Olivarez Cup this weekend. Supported by Jean Henri Lhuillier of Cebuana Lhuillier and Philta president Manuel Misa, the 20-year-old RP No. 1 netter cracked the world's top 1,000 after competing in the recent four-leg event of the ITF Tennis Circuit in Jakarta, Indonesia. Tierro, who is currently training under Grand Slammer Virgilio "Beeyong" Sison, head of the Subic Bay Sports Management Inc., at the Subic Bay International Tennis Center. Tierro will spearhead the country's drive in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

Escudero Cup set in San Pablo

THE COUNTRY'S top players are expected to compete in the 2005 Escudero Cup slated Oct. 22-29 at the AERA Tennis Club in San Pablo City, Laguna. Contact Boy Leonora at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center (523-6415) and Yolly Bidon at the AERA Tennis Club (049-562-2282). Deadline of entry for the seniors division is Oct. 20 and for the men's and ladies' division on Oct. 24 at 4 p.m.

Mayor Amante chessfest Saturday

THE 2005 MAYOR Amante Cup Executive and Non-Master chess tournaments, to be hosted and sponsored by Mayor Vicente Amante of San Pablo City, Laguna, unfolds at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the San Pablo City Hall. The event is organized by the San Pablo City Chess Association headed by George Hufana in cooperation with city sports director Emer Alcos. Contact Willie Abalos (02)438-0627 and 0921-621-9898 or Jun Mantupar at (049)562-7605 and 0919-896-2570.

LGBA 2nd round eliminations up

THE SECOND round eliminations of the Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-stag derby sizzles today at the Araneta Coliseum. Derby starts at 2 p.m. featuring more than 90 fights. The finals is on Tuesday. Five participants tallied three wins each from Monday's first round of action. They were Wally Tuanqui, Dalwin Yulangco and Allan Cong, Mayor Cito Alberto, Cesar Bada and Marcel Julao. "The grand showdown of provincial derby champions is getting tougher and tougher," said LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz. Meanwhile, the third leg of LGBA stag derby series is set Nov. 8 and 10. For details, call 926-7808, 924-5072 and 0920-5851940. Sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc., Robichem, Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, Thunderbird Enertone and Vitarich Panabong.

Stag Festival draws 200 entries

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit's Stag Festival 5-stag derby, scheduled on Saturday has attracted more than 200 cockers and breeders who will vie for the top prize of P1.3 million and Izusu 4x4 Big Horn. The first batch of 100 participants are requested to come on time, since the event will start at 2 p.m. The next 100 entries face one another on Monday. All qualifiers will compete on Oct. 19. Submission of weights is set tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and interested parties may call 851-2275, 833-1638, 852-9812 or 0917-8277484. Derby host Rolly Ligon, who will be assisted by pit managers Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno, said entry fee is P7,700. Sponsors are Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone.

Eslao bags novice karter award

ESLAO: Gearing for tougher competition

PAOLO ESLAO UNVEILED A BIG COMEBACK IN the final race to capture the KT Light crown and the Novice Karter of the Year award last weekend in the 2005 Shell Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

The 17-year-old Eslao, backed up by Sta. Elena Properties Inc., Air21, and Leonardo Quicho of General Motors-Shanghai, was already leading in Race 2 but was forced out with three laps to go when a pinion gear broke down.

But he proved his worth in the final race where he jumped from the fifth starting position to grab the lead and win by 250 meters. It was a fitting culmination to cap a rookie career with six first place finishes out of seven races.

He finished the 15-lap final race in 15:16.010 or a far 23.140 seconds lead over runner-up Jeff Reyes.

Eslao plans to move up to a higher class next season, eyeing either the Rotax class or the ROK division.

He wrapped up the series with 492 points as against Reyes' 247.

"It's a different feeling racing in a championship like this than in the previous rounds," said Eslao, a De La Salle freshman. "I was already sure of the title but still I felt a certain kind of pressure that pushed me to go on."

Teeners dominate in SEAG swim tryouts

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THE PHILIPPINES will be fielding a bunch of teenage swimmers in the Southeast Asian Games next month.

The possibility loomed after young upstarts—led by Marichi Gandionco and Kendrick Uy—continued to make waves on the second day of the SEAG tryouts at the Rizal Memorial swimming pool.

But Olympian Timmy Chua managed to create a ripple after topping the men's 100-meter breaststroke with a clocking of one minute and 5.81 seconds, a second ahead of teenage aspirant Bonus Bordado.

"This is a young bunch, they are practically kids out there," said swimming president Mark Joseph, who added that the fresh faces emerging only indicated the sport's dynamism.

Gandionco, 16, firmed up her chances for a SEAG slot after winning the women's 400m freestyle with a time of four minutes, 33.69 seconds, ahead of Chrizel Lagunday (4:43.77).

The 17-year-old Uy, the Palaro multigold medalist, towed what could be the national relay team selection, winning the 100m free in 53.91. Ronald Guiriba (54.29), Michaelmars Danila (54.44), Evan Uy (55.52) and Jan Michael Chiu (55.92) finished behind him in that order.

Benjie Uy, 16, copped the gold in the men's 200m individual medley in 2:15.39, besting Ferdinand Frigilana (2:19.45).

In Tuesday's opening day, comebacking Liza Danila and rookie Ryan Arabejo ruled their respective events.

Meanwhile, the Philippine tankers, who have just completed a one-month training in China, are expecting two Chinese coach to polish their forms.

One-time world record holder in the women's 200m IM Wu Yanyan and Shang Yi are due Oct. 20 to help prepare the country's tankers.

Weary Angels bedevil White Sox

CHICAGO—THE LOS ANGELES ANGELS will have plenty of time to rest. Right now, they're too busy winning.

Paul Byrd pitched effectively in a pinch, Garret Anderson homered and the travel-weary Angels edged the Chicago White Sox 3-2 Tuesday night in the opener of the AL championship series.

The Angels were supposed to be more than a little jet-lagged. Sunday night, they were on the East Coast, playing the Yankees. Monday night, they were back on the West Coast, beating New York. Now, they're in the Midwest, with no off-day until Thursday.

Seeking their first World Series berth in 46 years and first championship since 1917, the White Sox got another outstanding outing from Jose Contreras but couldn't manage much offense.

The Cuban right-hander worked into the ninth inning but lost for the first time since Aug. 15, ending his nine-start winning streak.

Chicago had won eight games in a row going back to the regular season, but fell short against a Los Angeles team playing in its third time zone in three nights.

Recovering from a throat infection and fever, Jarrod Washburn is slated to pitch Game 2 for the Angels on Wednesday night against All-Star starter Mark Buehrle.

Scot Shields retired slugger Paul Konerko with two on to end the eighth. Francisco Rodriguez worked around third baseman Chone Figgins' error to begin the bottom of the ninth and struck out Joe Crede to close it out. The Angels won Game 1 for the first time in six postseason series under manager Mike Scioscia.

The Angels lost in New York on Sunday, forcing them to fly cross-country overnight for a decisive Game 5. They made a pit stop at home for a series-clinching victory Monday night, then jumped on a redeye to the Midwest and arrived at their hotel around 6:30 a.m. Tuesday.

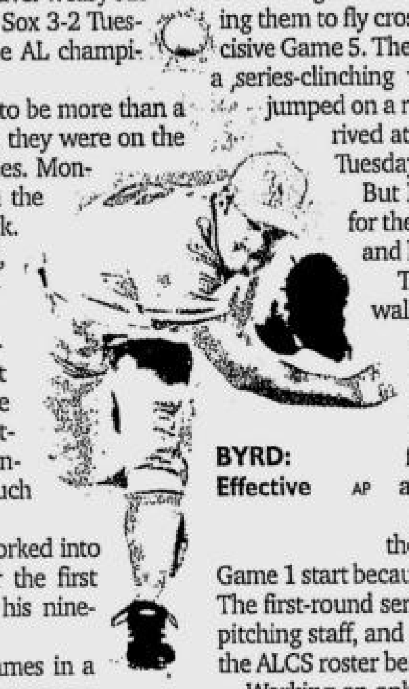
But Los Angeles was plenty fresh for the ALCS opener, thanks to Byrd and his bullpen.

The 34-year-old right-hander walked only 28 batters all season and his throwback delivery, with arms rocking back behind him like a right-handed Whitey Ford, belongs in a flickering old cut of black-and-white film footage.

A 12-game winner during the regular season, Byrd got the Game 1 start because he was the only option left. The first-round series took a toll on Los Angeles' pitching staff, and ace Bartolo Colon was left off the ALCS roster because of a shoulder injury.

Working on only three days' rest after a short outing in Game 3 against the Yankees, Byrd slipped on the mound while throwing a first-inning pitch to leadoff batter Scott Podsednik, then held Chicago in check for six-plus innings to earn his first postseason victory.

He departed after hitting Aaron Rowand with a pitch to begin the bottom of the seventh, but Shields got six outs to set up Rodriguez for his third save of the postseason. *AP*



BYRD: Effective AP

Pierce gains in Kremlin Cup

MOSCOW—THIRD-SEEDED MARY PIERCE of France rallied from a set down to beat Italy's Flavia Pennetta, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3, Wednesday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Kremlin Cup.

In her first match since France's loss to Russia in the Fed Cup final last month, Pierce broke back twice in the first set before Pennetta made a decisive break in the ninth game and served out the set.

Pierce, the US Open runner-up, won three consecutive games in the second set to go 5-1 up and broke the Italian at love in the eighth game to even the match.

In first-round play, Vera Zvonareva of Russia defeated compatriot and wild card Maria Kirilenko, 6-2, 6-3.

In later action, Maria Sharapova was set to make her professional debut in her homeland, playing Germany's Lena-Anna Groenefeld. *AP*

Winner, loser

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HOW MANY TIMES HAS IT BEEN SAID that to be handicapped does not mean it's the end of the world?

That was reminded to us once again by Isidro Vildosola, the one-armed runner in the Milo Marathon on Sunday, the 9th of October.

Forgive me, but I've always been partial to Oct. 9. Oct. 9's the birthday of John Lennon, the Chief Beatle. Had John Lennon, who was killed in New York City by a madman's bullet on Dec. 8, 1980, been alive, he'd have been 65 last Sunday.

Having said that, let's now proceed with the business of the day.

Isidro Vildosola symbolizes once more man's latent quest for normalcy amid deformity and a rearranged anatomy.

How many handicapped do I know who never considered their handicap a handicap?

A lot.

Beethoven was deaf when he composed his classic arias.

Jose Feliciano, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder and, yes, Andrea Bocelli are all blind and yet, their handicap was never a hindrance to them in making good music.

But not to go far, there's our very own polio-stricken Jimmy "Cannon" Cantor, who's been on crutches for decades.

Overcoming his handicap that he never considered as one since childhood, Jimmy fought the odds and is now the sports editor of Pahayagang Malaya, the newspaper of note founded by the late journalistic icon, Joe Burgos.

Today, Jimmy "Cannon" Cantor is our president in the Philippine Sportswriters Association.

Isidro Vildosola did not win the Milo Marathon on Sunday.

But I took great interest in him after having read the touching story about him by Abac Cordero of the Star.

"He landed nowhere in the Top 10," wrote Abac. "Perhaps nowhere even in the Top 20."

Perhaps, Vildosola had no intention of winning, although it would have helped had he won the 29th edition of the nation's equivalent to the famed Boston Marathon. Now 28 and still single, Vildosola is jobless.

Perhaps, too, Vildosola joined the Milo Marathon merely to prove that a handicapped like him could co-exist with the normal.

He was a mere "finisher" from a record 12,944 participants that answered the starting gun at the Quirino Grandstand in Luneta, yes, but for Vildosola, 5-foot-5, it must have felt like he was a winner already. If any survivor of such a grueling race would not feel the same, that one must be abnormal.

In a full marathon—that's a run covering a little over 42 kilometers—every finisher is not just a winner. He/she is also a hero of sorts. There are losers that are outright heroes, right?

In a full marathon, the first placer is merely incidental. The second placer down to the last placer occupies the same spotlight as the first to breast the tape.

Is the first person in a group of five to reach the summit of Mt. Everest considered the first placer, the winner?

They are all winners, courageous people who brave the elements, buck the limits of human endurance, ignore life-threatening risks just to get there.

In a full marathon, you defy everything, even death, just to touch the so-called "while wall" of completion.

You don't just quit because there's so much ego, if not machismo, involved when you enter a full marathon. Surrender here is treasonous to the runner.

While the race itself is more than a test of endurance, it is as punishing as plunging yourself deep into the sea without an oxygen tank. Its killer trait is worse than the Death March. It is sadism at its apex.

Vildosola said he lost his right arm (from the top of the elbow down) in a work-related accident in Marbel, South Cotabato, in 1999, but not after saving his cousin from getting pinned in a rice mill machine.

"I embraced him, but in an instant, the machine caught my right arm," Vildosola said. "He was saved, unhurt, but I lost my arm."

He wasn't among the top finishers but there wasn't any tinge of remorse in him.

"I still lack the strength for a full marathon," Vildosola told Abac in Filipino. "I need more training for this kind of event."

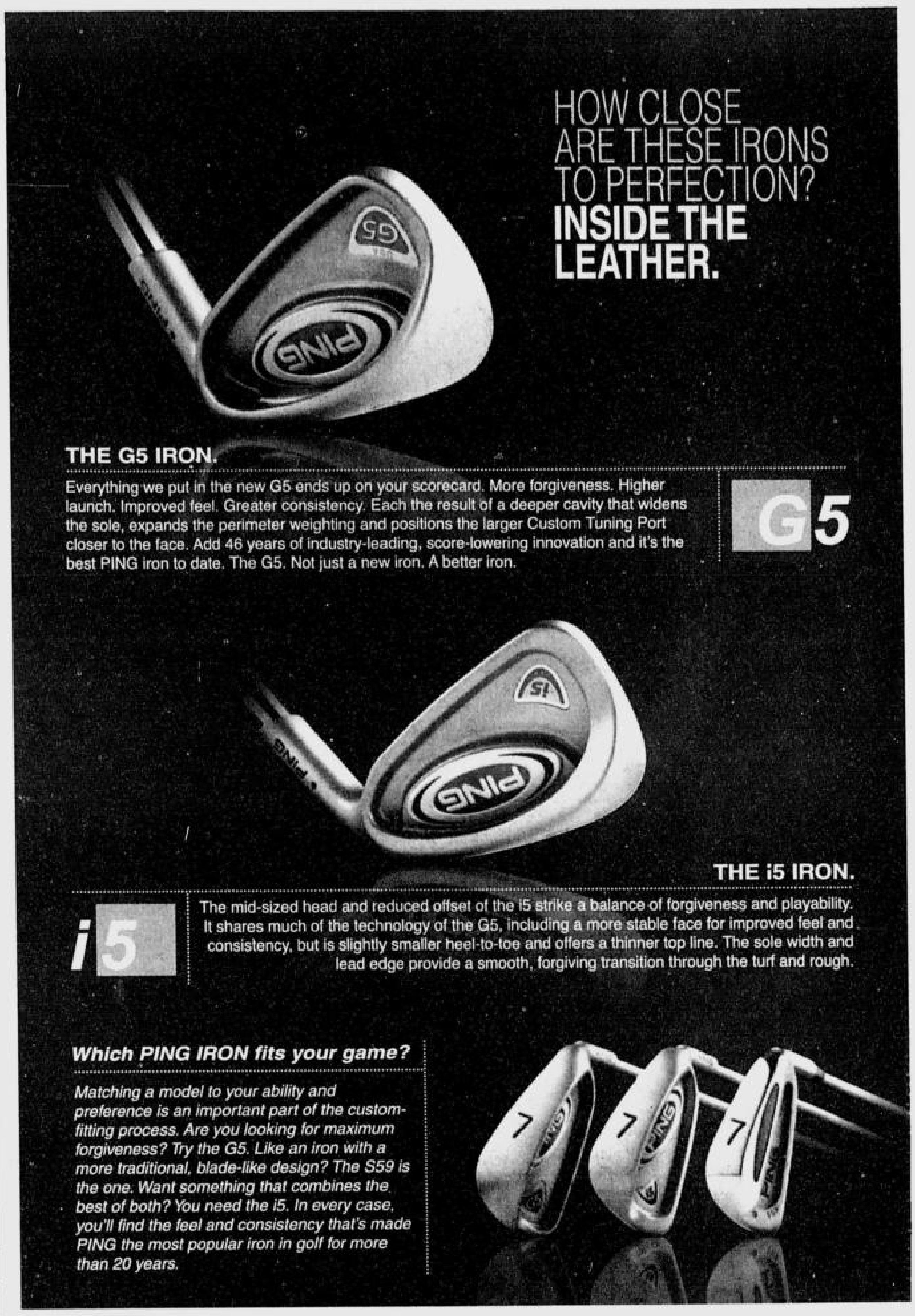
But even if he didn't fare well, Vildosola is already my hero and my heart goes to him, the way my heart went to Numeriano Titong, the first Milo Marathon winner in 1976. Titong, now the caddy of my buddy Ding Marcelo at Capitol Golf Hills, still rues to this day the uncollected prize due him—a victim of a heartless organizer.

I know. I covered the Milo Marathon's initial staging and each time I see Titong at Capitol, he'd tell me: "Sir, I'm still waiting for my main prize until now."

What that prize is, I do not have the faintest idea.

***

FASTBREAK. Kudos to Suresh Nanoo, HSBC's marketing head, for putting together another smashingly successful HSBC Invitationals on Oct. 7 at Tagaytay Highlands/Midlands. The same goes to Ruth Sy, who organized the event with Junie Ledesma. Junie's Sta. Elena staff consisting of Bones Floro, Ana Castro and King Stehmeier also have my applause. Cheers!... My gratitude to Cristina Henson for a splendid "burning" of The Zombies and Dave Clark Five CDs. It's been a dream come true to have DC Five's greatest hits on CD. Thank you, Cristina.



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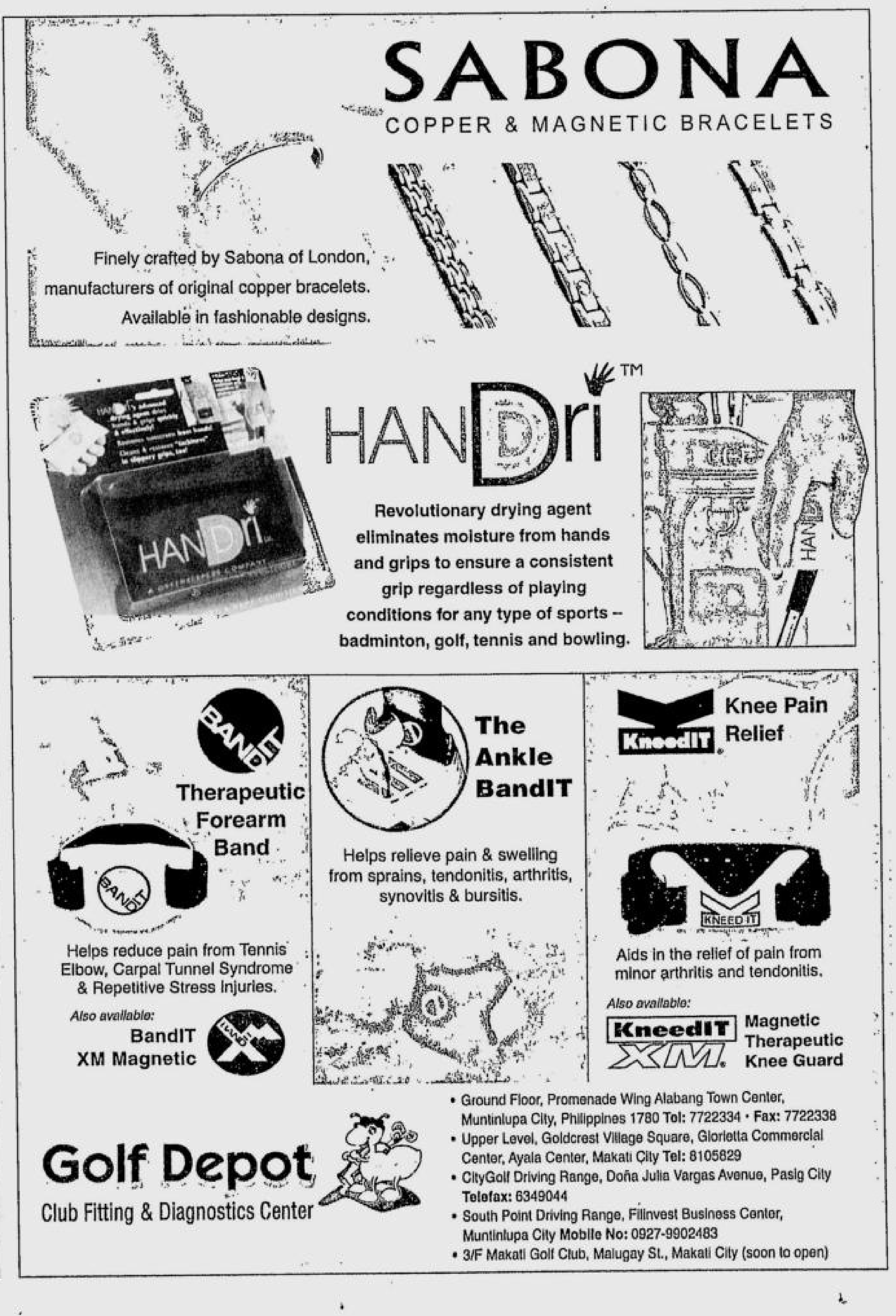

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Brod directs Gwyneth

LOS ANGELES—Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow takes a starring role in a new film to be directed by her brother Jake, Daily Variety said Monday. "The Good Night" is a $15-million romantic comedy in which British actors Martin Freeman and Simon Pegg will also take roles, is scheduled to begin next month in New York and at London's Ealing Studios. *AFP*

Remember Gary Lewis?

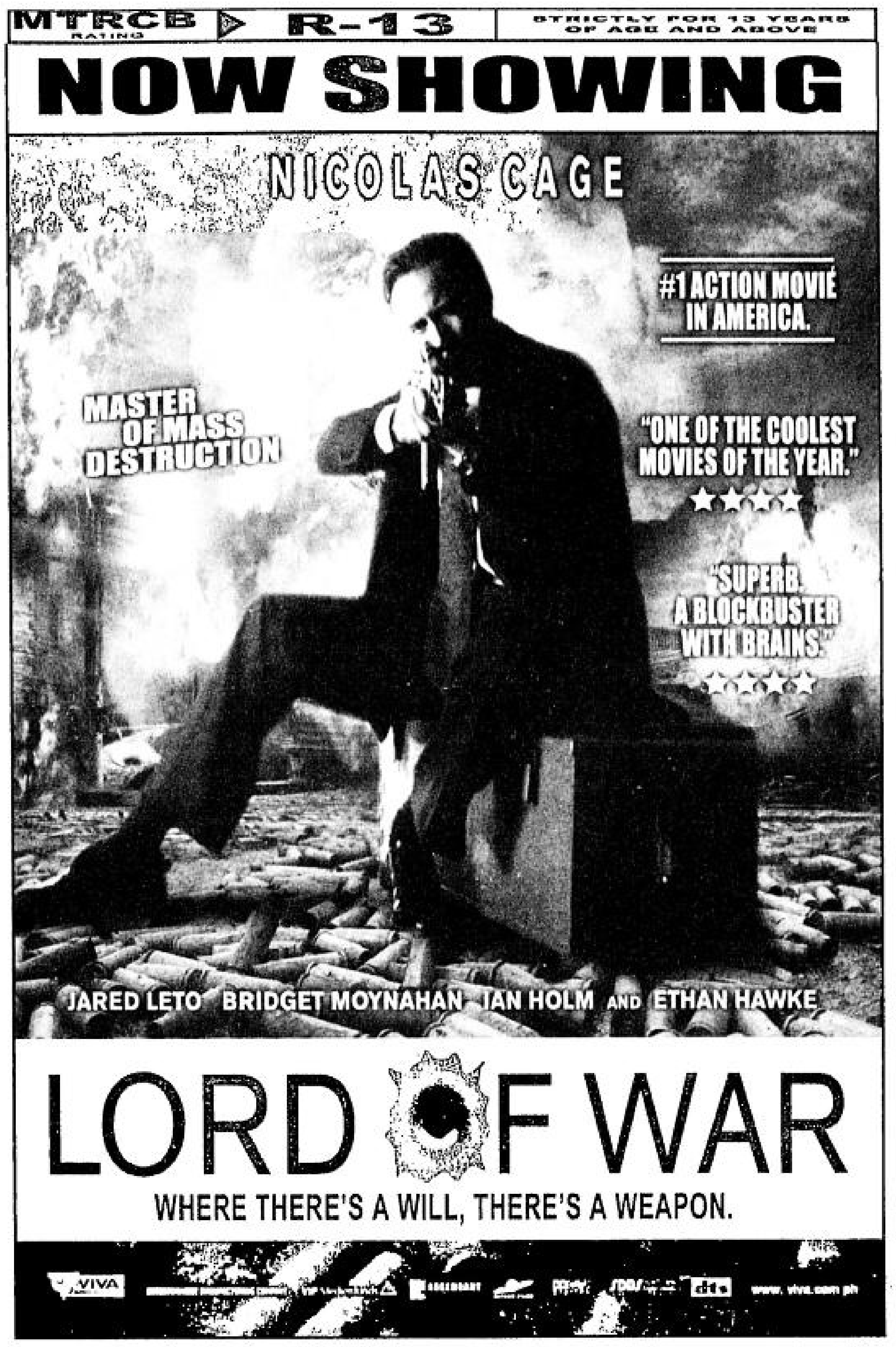
AND remember his band, the Playboys? They are coming for a series of concerts, "Gary Lewis and the Playboys—Live in Manila!" Playdates are: Oct. 28, Araneta Coliseum; Oct. 29, Manila Hotel; Oct. 30 in Angeles City. Tickets for the Araneta show are priced at P2,200, P1,800, P1,400, P1,000, P500 and P200; for the Manila Hotel dinner show, P3,500.

Pitt-Norton rematch

BRAD Pitt

LOS ANGELES—Big screen superstars Brad Pitt and Edward Norton are teaming up to produce a new television mini-series about famed US explorers Lewis and Clark, producers said Monday. But the pals and co-stars of 1999's "Fight Club" will not act in the 10-part HBO television adaptation of Stephen Ambrose's book about the 19th century journey of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark across the American continent. Norton and Pitt will instead act as executive producers of the series, while Norton will also direct at least one of the episodes of the show to be co-produced by National Geographic and HBO, HBO confirmed. *AFP*

EDWARD Norton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	3	DUBAI
	4	THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1	WALLACE & GROMIT
	2	DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2
	3 THX	LORD OF WAR GUARANTEED SEATS
	4	INTO THE BLUE
	5	DUBAI
	6	DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO
	7	THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1	SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL For more details, call 752-7865
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GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX	LORD OF WAR GUARANTEED SEATS
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	3	INTO THE BLUE GUARANTEED SEATS
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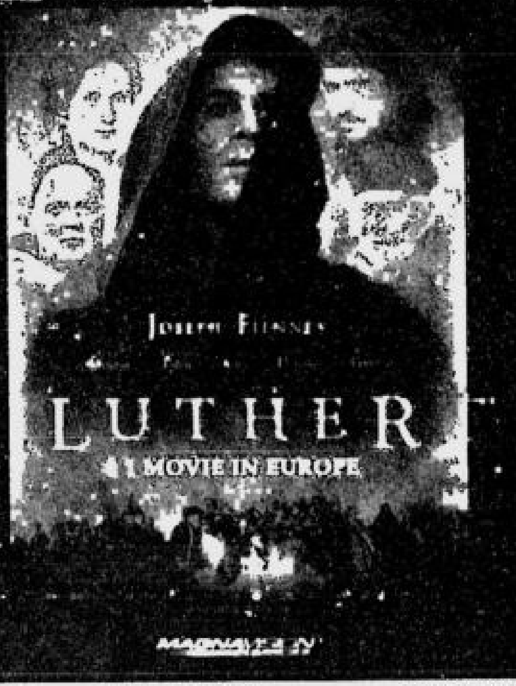

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Per DTI-NCR Permit no A2-455 Series of 2005

Mega loses weight, Kiko says hurrah

'I woke up one morning and saw in the hallway a streamer that he had made, cheering me on'

By Nini Valera

SHARON CUNETA COULD NOT STOP talking about losing weight during the recent launch of her newest album, "Sharon Sings Alcasid," released by Sony BMG.

She gamely chatted with the entertainment media about the diets she had tried and the support she got from her husband, Sen. Francis Pangilinan, in her slimming program.

"I woke up one morning and saw hanging in the hallway a streamer that Kiko had made, cheering me on" Sharon related. "I found it so cute; I was so touched by my family's involvement."

She has lost 22 pounds since June. "I could lose another 30 pounds," Sharon said. "But I'm sure I'd want to lose more after that."

She swears by the South Beach Diet. "I didn't realize that food could taste so good even when I'm on a diet," she said.

But she would not go for liposuction to hasten the weight loss. "It's invasive, and I would need anesthesia," Sharon explained. "Kiko warned me of the side effects."

She confided that excess weight made her last pregnancy more difficult than the first two. "I was not at my ideal weight when I learned I was pregnant with Miel," she said. "[And] I gained more during the pregnancy."

Unable to shed weight fast enough after delivery (in September 2004), Sharon could not promote the album when it was released two months ago. She was in the United States at the time for a concert series. But even if she had been around, she said, "I would not look so pleasing on TV. I had to lose weight first; I felt I owed my fans that much."

Two years

She said she was flattered to have recorded Ogie's songs. "There are so many singers vying for new songs," she explained. "I'm just so happy to come out with another album for this generation."

She is convinced that Ogie is "one of the best songwriters we have now." She recalled, "Whenever Ogie guested in my show, he would always have a new song. We were recording once in Cinema Audio, before he started writing. We discussed how he could write songs with commercial appeal. Now he has a treasure trove. We could record a Volume 2."

Ogie said, "I thank Sharon for doing this. She did 'Sharon Sings ... Valera, Canseco, Willy Cruz ...' There was a time when I wasn't paying attention to my songwriting. [Now] I can't stop. This album with Sharon is a milestone in my career."

"Sharon Sings Alcasid" is high-concept all the way—from the choice of songs to the cover art work, to the pull-out mini magazine-type of lyric sheet.

The *komiks* strip art work, Sharon said, was to portray her recognizable public self. "I was so huge when I was doing the album that if we had used photographs instead, they would not look like me now."

Songs featured in the album include "Sana," "Hanggang Ngayon," "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," "Ikaw Sana" and "Dito Sa Puso Ko." "Sa Kanya," written by Ito Rapadas, and "Nandito Ako," by Aaron Paul del Rosario, are two songs popularized by Ogie.

Rufa Mae: I want to be . . .

From page A24

and great choreography by Ding Cruz. We owe it to our audience!"

The all-new material is written by Ricky Lee.

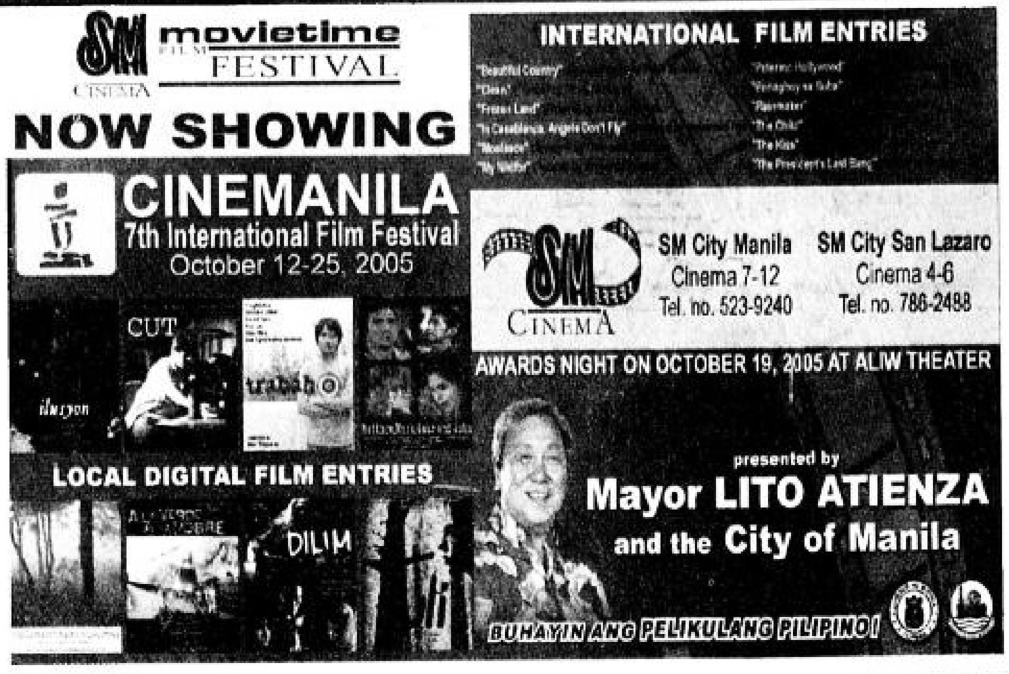
Director Mel Chionglo promises that all the actors will be seen in their "sexiest" outfits. "Rest assured it will be a visual feast!" he says.

"This is my first time to do theater," says Jay Manalo. "I am thankful to my directors who patiently guided me along."

Show dates after the premiere are Oct. 15, 21, 22 and 28. Tickets—priced at P2,000, P1,500, P1,000 and P800—are available at Music Museum (721-0635 or 721-6726), Ticketworld (891-5610 or 891-9999) and DMV Entertainment (374-1361 or 415-0373).

(Email wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@citykartracing.com.)

CALL NOW* 833-9999
NOW SHOWING at SM CINEMA



SM CINEMA movietime FILM FESTIVAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMANILA
7th International Film Festival
October 12-25, 2005
INTERNATIONAL FILM ENTRIES
"Beautiful Country"
"Clean"
"Frozen Land"
"In Casablanca, Angels Don't Fly"
"Mooladé"
"My Mother"
"Pinoy Hollywood"
"Panaghoy sa Suba"
"Rainmaker"
"The Child"
"The Kiss"
"The President's Last Bang"
SM City Manila
Cinema 7-12
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SM City San Lazaro
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AWARDS NIGHT ON OCTOBER 19, 2005 AT ALIW THEATER
LOCAL DIGITAL FILM ENTRIES
presented by
Mayor LITO ATIENZA
and the City of Manila
BUHAYIN ANG PELIKULANG PILIPINO!

CENTER Stage
LIVE PLAYS — CONCERT — LIVE PLAYS
MEGAMALL
LITTLE MERMAID
October 11-15
10am to 12 pm
NORTH EDSA
Catch
KITCHIE NADAL & BARBIE
December 02, 2005
BACOOR
SILANG MGA BATA
October 13,2005
October 20-21, 2005
movietime FILM FESTIVAL
Cinemanila
October 12-25
movietime PREMIERE
ADVENTURE OF SHARK BOY & LAVA GIRL
October 15, 2005
Megamall 4:00pm
MY BABY GIRL
October 17, 2005
Megamall 7:30pm

movietime
FOR GUARANTEED SEATS
THE PODIUM 633-8976
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
12:00FS/01:00MF/03:00/06:00/07:00
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/10:30END
2 LORD OF WAR
01:20FS/01:50MF/04:10/06:30
08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END
MEGAMALL
LORD OF WAR
10:15FS/10:20MF/12:40/03:00/05:20/07:40
09:40LFS/10:00LMF/12:00END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 FILM FESTIVAL
2 LORD OF WAR
12:00FS/12:18MF/02:36/04:54/07:12
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:25END
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
12:00FS/12:20MF/02:10/04:00/05:50/07:40
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END

METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 CINEMANILA
2 DUECE BIGALOW
3 LORD OF WAR
4 TRANSPORTER 2
5 WALLACE & GROMIT
6 DUNGEONS & GROMIT
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 DUBAI
9 INTO THE BLUE
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
12 LAND OF DEAD
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 LORD OF WAR
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 TRANSPORTER 2
9 DUBAI
10 BLADE OF THE ROSE
11 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
12 LAND OF THE DEAD
SM NORTH EDSA
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT
3 DUBAI
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 LORD OF WAR
SM CITY STA MESA
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
3 LORD OF WAR
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DUBAI
6 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 WALLACE AND GROMIT
9 TRANSPORTER 2
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DUBAI
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 TRANSPORTER 2
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 WALLACE AND GROMIT
9 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
SM CITY MANILA
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 LORD OF WAR
5 WALLACE AND GROMIT
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
7 CINEMANILA
8 CINEMANILA
9 CINEMANILA
10 CINEMANILA
11 CINEMANILA
12 CINEMANILA
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DUBAI
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
SM SAN LAZARO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 WALLACE AND GROMIT
5 DUBAI
6 CINEMANILA
LUZON
SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 CONSTANT GARDENER
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 DUBAI
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
SM CITY BACOOR
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 WALLACE & GROMIT
3 LORD OF WAR
4 DEUCE BIGALOW
5 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
6 DUBAI
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 INTO THE BLUE
SM CITY MARILAO
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT
3 DUBAI
4 LORD OF WAR
SM CITY LUCENA
1 DUBAI
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 THE CAVE
4 PERFECT CATCH
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 DEUCE BIGALOW
2 DUBAI
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 PERFECT CATCH
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 AUSTRALIAN FILM FEST
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DEUCE BIGALOW
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 INTO THE BLUE
6 LAND OF THE DEAD
7 DUBAI
8 BROTHERS GRIMM
SM CITY ILOILO
1 PERFECT MAN
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DUECE BIGALOW
6 TRANSPORTER 2
7 RESERVED
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
SM CITY DAVAO
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 THE CROW4:WICKED PRAYER
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DEUCE BIGALOW
6 LORD OF WAR
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 PERFECT CATCH
2 DEUCE BIGALOW
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Trumpets LITTLE MERMAID
based on the much loved tale by Hans Christian Andersen
TRUMPETS HIT MUSICAL IS BACK!
OPENS SEPTEMBER AT THE MEGAMALL
Shows at 10am & 2pm on October 4-7 & 11-15
Ticket Price:
P400 (Orchestra) P300 (Balcony)
For ticket inquiries, please call TRUMPETS at 635 4478, 631 7252, 633 4387
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 DUNGEONS & DRAGON - PG13 11:00, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20
CINEMA 2 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN - R13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 WALLACE & GROMIT - GP 10:50, 1:05, 3:15, 5:25, 7:35, 9:50
CINEMA 4 LORD OF WAR PG13 11:10, 1:35, 4:00, 6:25, 8:50
CINEMA 5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 - R13 10:45, 12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 6:25, 8:20, 10:15
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
October 14,15,21,22 & 28 PENIS TALKS 2 : All About Men 9PM
October 27, 2005 TARA TAMBUNTING CONCERT 8PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 WALLACE & GROMIT MTRCB GP 12.40, 3.00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 MTRCB R-13 12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7 40, 10.00
3 LORD OF WAR MTRCB R-13 11 20, 2 00, 4 40, 7.20, 10.00
4 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN MTRCB R-13 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE CORPSE BRIDE
MTRCB GP 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30 LMF
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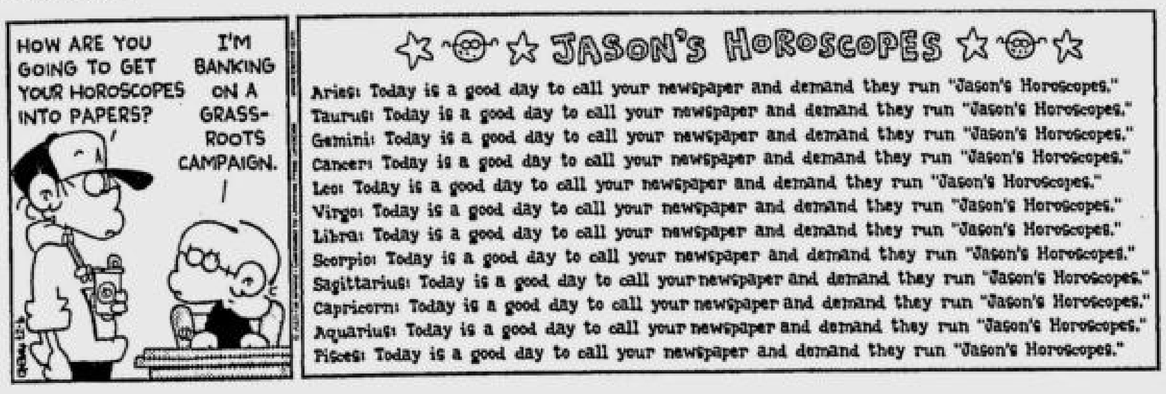
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 R-13
2 WALLACE & GROMIT 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 GP
3 LORD OF WAR 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 R-13
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00 R-13

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
WALLACE AND GROMIT GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,8:00
DEUCE BIGALOW: EUROPEAN GIGOLO R13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:00
THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13 12:00,2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40
TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE GP 1:00,3:00
INTO THE BLUE PG13 5:00 7:25 9:50
LORD OF WAR R13 12:00,2:30,5:00, 7:30,10:00

Araneta Center Leisure Guide.
CINEMA SCHEDULES
Gateway CINEPLEX 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
GLOBE PLATINUM P249 / P299
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 12:35 / 2:50 / 5:05 / 7:20 / 9:35
LORD OF WAR 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20
WALLACE & GROMIT 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2
CORPSE BRIDE 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
DEUCE BIGALOW 2 2:15 / 4:30 RESERVED 7-11 pm
THE 40 YR OLD VIRGIN 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
INTO THE BLUE 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
TRANSPORTER 2 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 12:10 R3 / 1:25 / 3:40 / 5:55 / 8:10
2 LORD OF WAR 11:55 / 2:45 / 5:35 / 8:25
3 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2
4 INTO THE BLUE 12:35 / 3:05 / 5:35 / 8:05
5 DUBAI 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
ALLAN K, GLADYS & JANNO - SUPERFRIENDS October 14, Friday 8 pm
2005 STAR OLYMPICS October 15, Saturday 8 am
LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

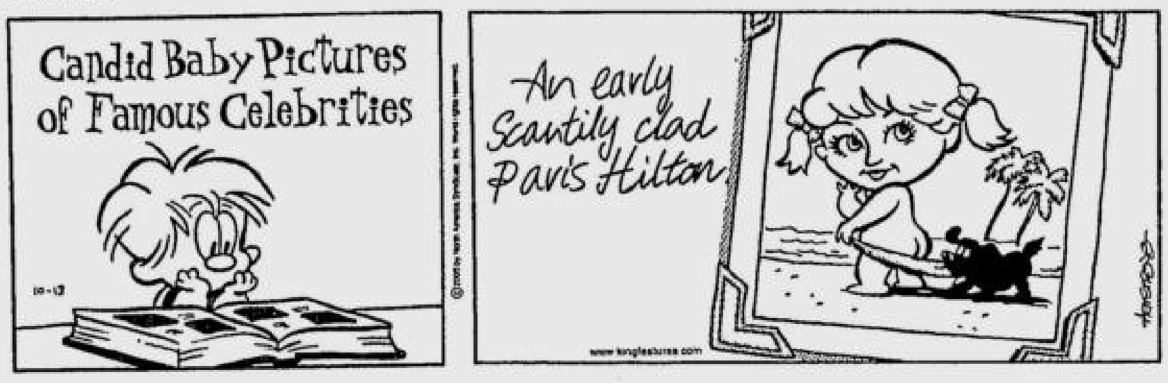
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET YOUR HOROSCOPES INTO PAPERS?
I'M BANKING ON A GRASS-ROOTS CAMPAIGN.
JASON'S HOROSCOPES
Aries: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Taurus: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Gemini: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Cancer: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Leo: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Virgo: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Libra: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Scorpio: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Sagittarius: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Capricorn: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Aquarius: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."
Pisces: Today is a good day to call your newspaper and demand they run "Jason's Horoscopes."

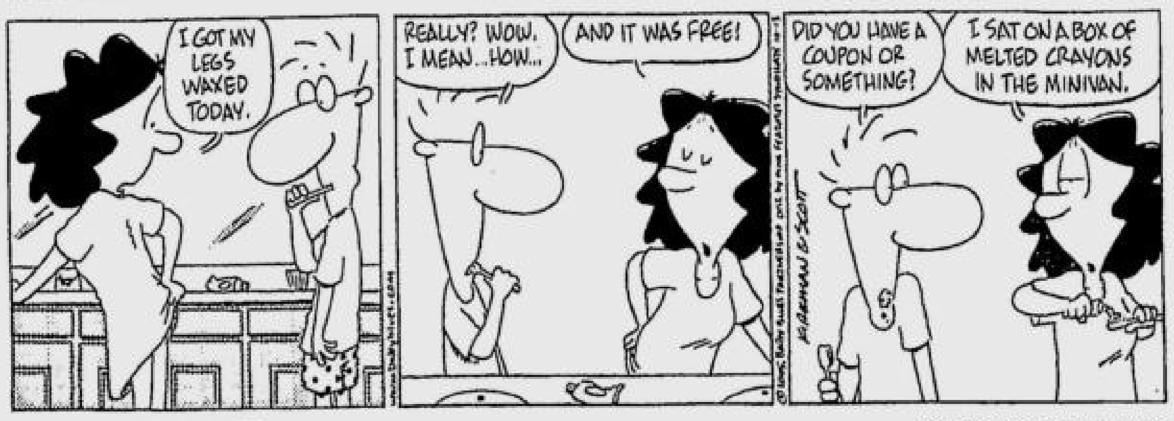
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


Candid Baby Pictures of Famous Celebrities
An early Scantily clad Paris Hilton
10-13
www.kingfeatures.com

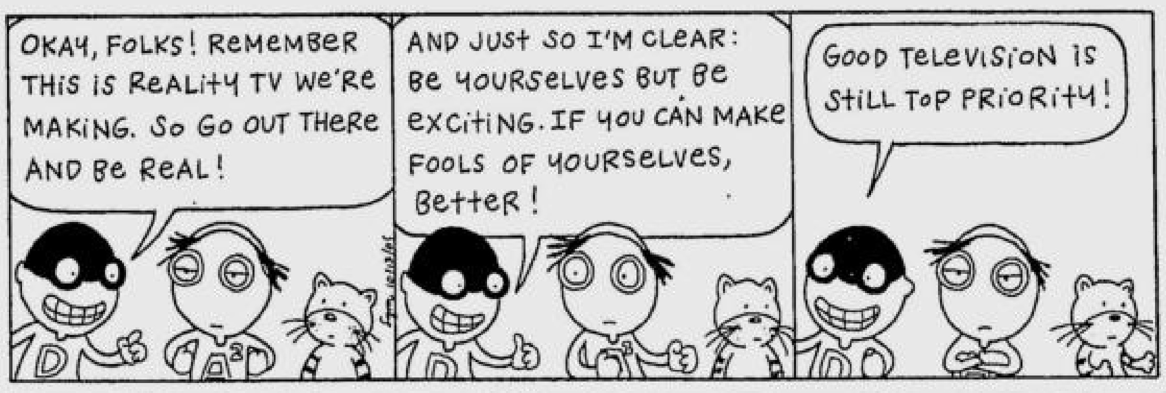
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


I GOT MY LEGS WAXED TODAY.
REALLY? WOW. I MEAN...HOW...
AND IT WAS FREE!
DID YOU HAVE A COUPON OR SOMETHING?
I SAT ON A BOX OF MELTED CRAYONS IN THE MINIVAN.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OKAY, FOLKS! REMEMBER THIS IS REALITY TV WE'RE MAKING. SO GO OUT THERE AND BE REAL!
AND JUST SO I'M CLEAR: BE YOURSELVES BUT BE EXCITING. IF YOU CAN MAKE FOOLS OF YOURSELVES, BETTER!
GOOD TELEVISION IS STILL TOP PRIORITY!

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You take your career and your professional life very seriously. You're intense, ambitious and multitalented. (You often have a particular technical expertise.) Your determination to overcome obstacles is phenomenal. An interesting year ahead awaits you. Special choices require an important decision. What will it be? Birthdate of: Paul Simon, musician; Kelly Preston, actress; Margaret Thatcher, former British prime minister.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Surprise news about shared possessions or the wealth of others could catch you off-guard today. The upside is that an unexpected gift or inheritance might come your way! (One hopes.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Conversations with partners will go in a surprising direction today. Someone will amaze you. You might be introduced to a real character, or learn something about someone that really surprises you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): New technology at work could liberate you in some way. Modern ideas about how to do things will be timesaving and efficient. Be patient with the learning curve that always accompanies stuff like this.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Love at first sight is possible today. Exciting diversions, different people, new hobbies and playful, entertaining events are thrilling and stimulating!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Unexpected company might drop in today. Stock the fridge; make fresh coffee. This is also a good day to buy technological or computer-related equipment for your home or a family member.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're full of bright, new, exciting ideas today! Your mind is in overdrive. You will also meet new people who interest you. Conversations take a really different turn!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): New ways of making money look possible. You feel encouraged by this possibility! This is a good day to buy computer-related equipment or something that is scientific or technological.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): All kinds of things interest you today! Today is full of surprises. The idea of traveling anywhere new definitely appeals to you now. You want to break free of your usual routine.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You must stay active today, because you must avoid boredom. This is a good day to tackle interesting research or seek out hidden answers. Voilà! The truth is in your hand!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Conversations with others have an electric quality today. You'll definitely avoid boring people. You want new insights, new opinions and fascinating information.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Parents and authority figure surprise you now. Someone could do something quite outrageous. You might even be shocked.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel plans might be interrupted. What is more likely, however, is that new information leads you to new places and new opportunities. This also applies to publishing, the media and higher education.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
- 1 First person?
- 5 Cain's victim
- 9 Profound depth
- 14 Sandwich shoppe
- 15 Caron film of 1953
- 16 Elk relative
- 17 Pelvic pieces
- 18 Romance lang.
- 19 Parson's house
- 20 Start of Evan Esar quip
- 23 Gary of "Apollo 13"
- 24 TV component
- 25 Wind dir.
- 28 WWII landing craft
- 31 Eagles' nests
- 33 Jelly choice
- 37 Part 2 of quip
- 39 Costa __
- 40 Schnozz
- 41 Wind indicator
- 42 Part 3 of quip
- 44 Binge
- 45 Loud firecracker
- 46 Buttress
- 48 Before, before
- 49 Shout of pain
- 51 Works out
- 56 End of quip
- 59 Farewell, Yves
- 62 Aspect
- 63 Singing voice
- 64 Soft hat
- 65 Salty droplet
- 66 Siamese statement
- 67 Appears
- 68 Shade trees
- 69 Some vipers

DOWN
- 1 Mine entrances
- 2 City on the Jumna
- 3 UFO crew member
- 4 Home of the Heat
- 5 Skirt styles
- 6 Anchor chain attachment
- 7 NFL kicker Jason
- 8 Spring bloomer
- 9 Current measuring device
- 10 Long fluffy scarves
- 11 Over there, briefly
- 12 Sound of a slow leak
- 13 Comprehend
- 21 Wight or Skye
- 22 Very venomous snake
- 25 Indian instrument
- 26 River of Rouen
- 27 First name in cosmetics
- 29 Wee
- 30 Condescend
- 32 Letters on an invitation
- 33 Grouse
- 34 Stair piece
- 35 Sharp
- 36 Madonna hit, "__ Don't Preach"
- 38 Two squared
- 40 Early sin city
- 43 Qualifications tests
- 44 Predicament
- 47 Basketry materials
- 50 Haste result
- 52 Camel cousin
- 53 Landscape dips
- 54 Bar legally
- 55 Puts away
- 56 Abound
- 57 German port
- 58 Coated cheese
- 59 Tummy muscles
- 60 Ruby of "Raisin in the Sun"
- 61 Indignation

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11	12	13
14				■	15				■	16				
17				■	18				■	19				
20				21					22			■	■	■
23						■	■	24			■	25	26	27
■	■	■	■	28		29	30	■	31		32			
33	34	35	36		■	37		38						
39				■	40					■	41			
42				43					■	44				
45						■	46		47		■	■	■	■
48			■	49		50	■	■	51		52	53	54	55
■	■	■	56				57	58						
59	60	61			■	62				■	63			
64					■	65				■	66			
67					■	68				■	69			

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

10/13/05

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

M	O	R	E	S	■	A	B	C	S	■	A	V	I	D
A	M	I	S	H	■	D	R	O	P	■	M	I	R	A
R	E	N	T	E	■	V	E	E	R	■	E	S	A	I
U	N	D	E	R	H	A	N	D	E	D	N	E	S	S
■	■	■	S	P	A	N	■	S	A	R	D	■	■	■
L	O	S	■	A	N	T	E	■	D	E	M	I	S	E
A	C	T	A	■	O	A	T	S	■	A	E	D	E	S
N	E	A	R	S	I	G	H	T	E	D	N	E	S	S
C	A	I	R	N	■	E	I	R	E	■	T	A	T	E
E	N	R	O	O	T	■	C	U	R	B	■	L	O	N
■	■	■	W	O	O	F	■	C	I	A	O	■	■	■
T	I	G	H	T	F	I	S	T	E	D	N	E	S	S
E	R	I	E	■	F	R	A	U	■	G	E	C	K	O
N	A	N	A	■	E	N	G	R	■	E	A	T	I	N
D	E	A	D	■	E	S	S	E	■	S	L	O	P	E

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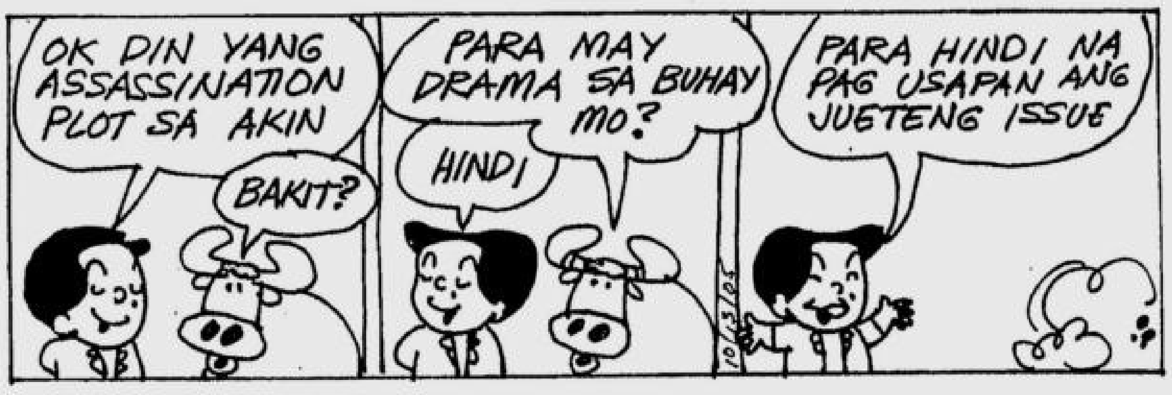
10/13/05

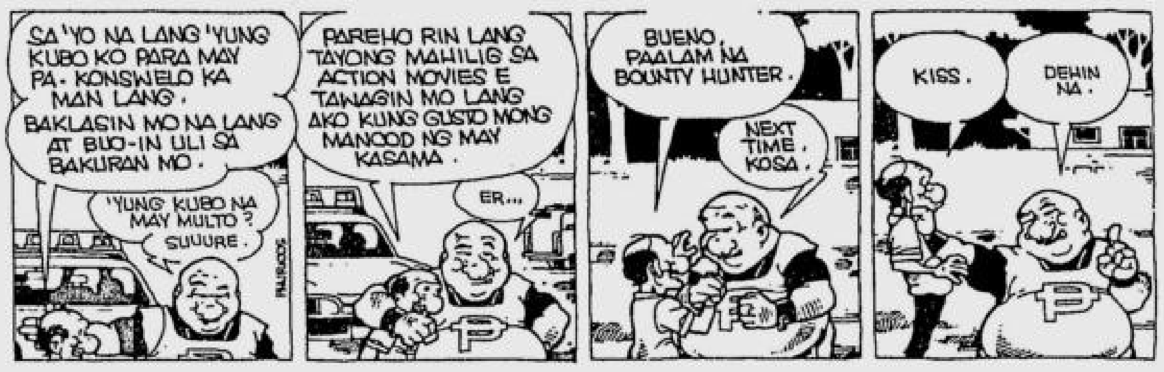
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


OK DIN YANG ASSASSINATION PLOT SA AKIN
BAKIT?
PARA MAY DRAMA SA BUHAY MO?
HINDI
PARA HINDI NA PAG USAPAN ANG JUETENG ISSUE
10/13/05

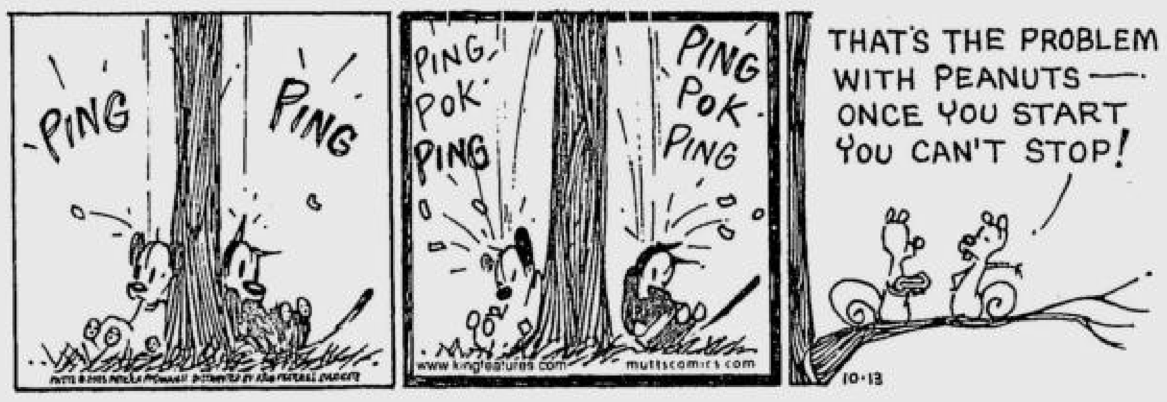
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SA 'YO NA LANG 'YUNG KUBO KO PARA MAY PA-KONSWELO KA MAN LANG. BAKLASIN MO NA LANG AT BUO-IN ULI SA BAKURAN MO.
'YUNG KUBO NA MAY MULTO? SUUURE.
PAREHO RIN LANG TAYONG MAHILIG SA ACTION MOVIES E TAWAGIN MO LANG AKO KUNG GUSTO MONG MANOOD NG MAY KASAMA.
ER...
BUENO, PAALAM NA BOUNTY HUNTER.
NEXT TIME, KOSA.
KISS.
DEHIN NA.

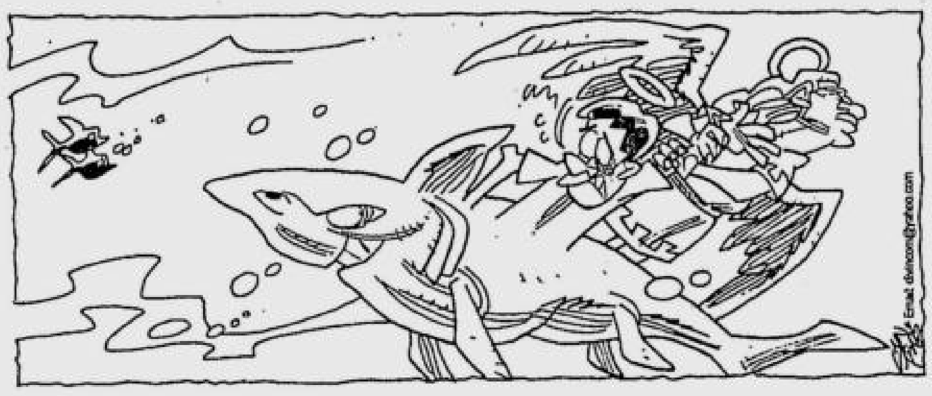
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


PING
PING
PING, POK PING
PING POK PING
THAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH PEANUTS — ONCE YOU START YOU CAN'T STOP!
www.kingfeatures.com
muttscomics.com
10-13

DIVINE COMEDY

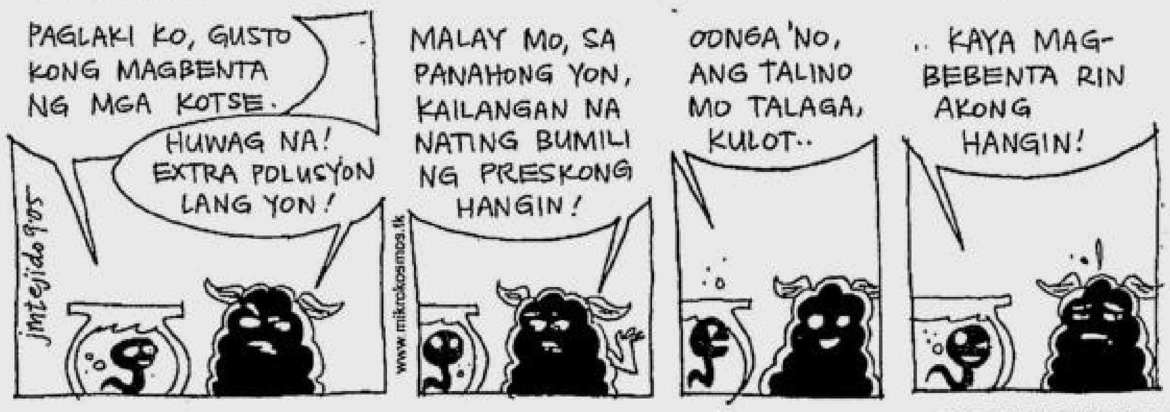
BY STEVEN PABALINAS



WHEN HIS SOUL SEPARATED HIS BODY TO ASCEND TO HEAVEN, PEPE REALIZED THAT HE WAS EATEN BY A MAKO SHARK

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


PAGLAKI KO, GUSTO KONG MAGBENTA NG MGA KOTSE.
HUWAG NA! EXTRA POLUSYON LANG YON!
MALAY MO, SA PANAHONG YON, KAILANGAN NA NATING BUMILI NG PRESKONG HANGIN!
OONGA 'NO, ANG TALINO MO TALAGA, KULOT..
.. KAYA MAG-BEBENTA RIN AKONG HANGIN!
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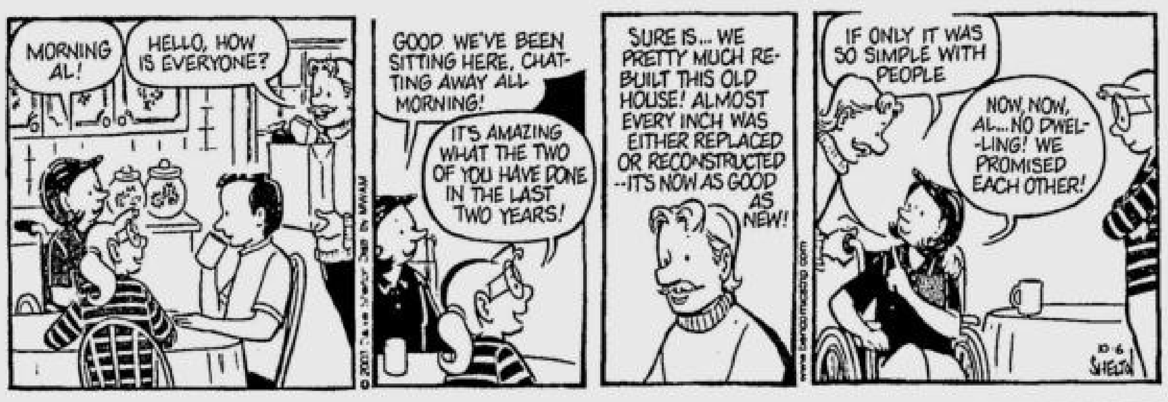
www.mikrokosmos.tk

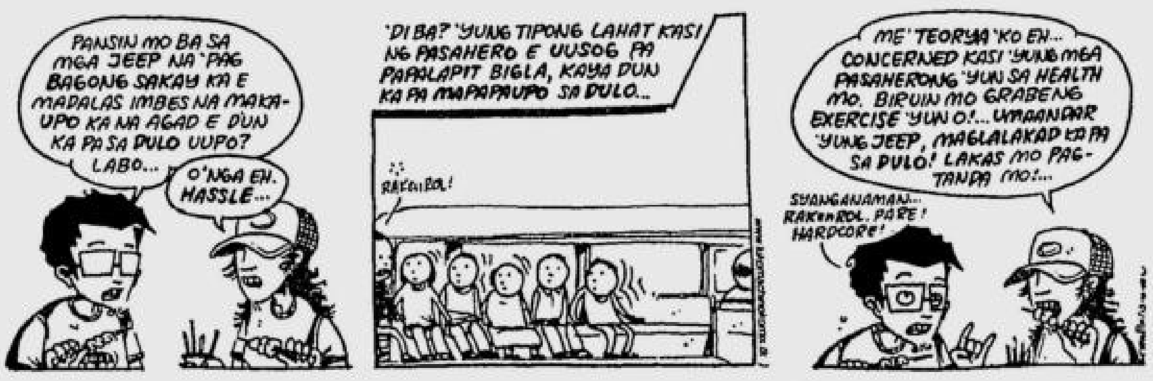
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


MORNING AL!
HELLO, HOW IS EVERYONE?
GOOD. WE'VE BEEN SITTING HERE, CHATTING AWAY ALL MORNING!
IT'S AMAZING WHAT THE TWO OF YOU HAVE DONE IN THE LAST TWO YEARS!
SURE IS... WE PRETTY MUCH REBUILT THIS OLD HOUSE! ALMOST EVERY INCH WAS EITHER REPLACED OR RECONSTRUCTED --IT'S NOW AS GOOD AS NEW!
IF ONLY IT WAS SO SIMPLE WITH PEOPLE
NOW, NOW, AL...NO DWELLING! WE PROMISED EACH OTHER!
10-6 SHELTON

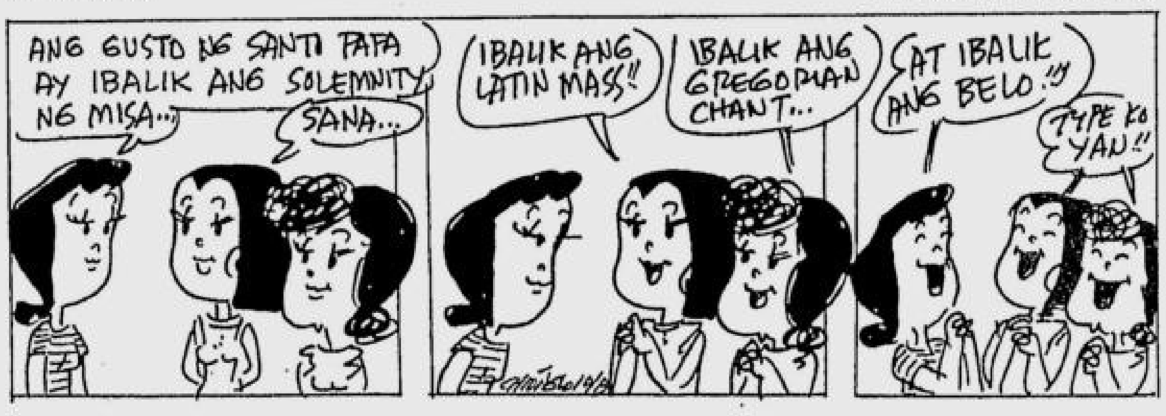
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PANSIN MO BA SA MGA JEEP NA 'PAG BAGONG SAKAY KA E MADALAS IMBES NA MAKA-UPO KA NA AGAD E DUN KA PA SA DULO UUPO? LABO...
O'NGA EH. HASSLE...
'DI BA? 'YUNG TIPONG LAHAT KASI NG PASAHERO E UUSOG PA PAPALAPIT BIGLA, KAYA DUN KA PA MAPAPAUPO SA DULO...
RAKENROL!
ME' TEORYA 'KO EH... CONCERNED KASI 'YUNG MGA PASAHERONG 'YUN SA HEALTH MO. BIRUIN MO GRABENG EXERCISE 'YUN O!... UMAANDAR 'YUNG JEEP, MAGLALAKAD KA PA SA DULO! LAKAS MO PAG-TANDA MO!...
SYANGANAMAN... RAKENROL PARE! HARDCORE!

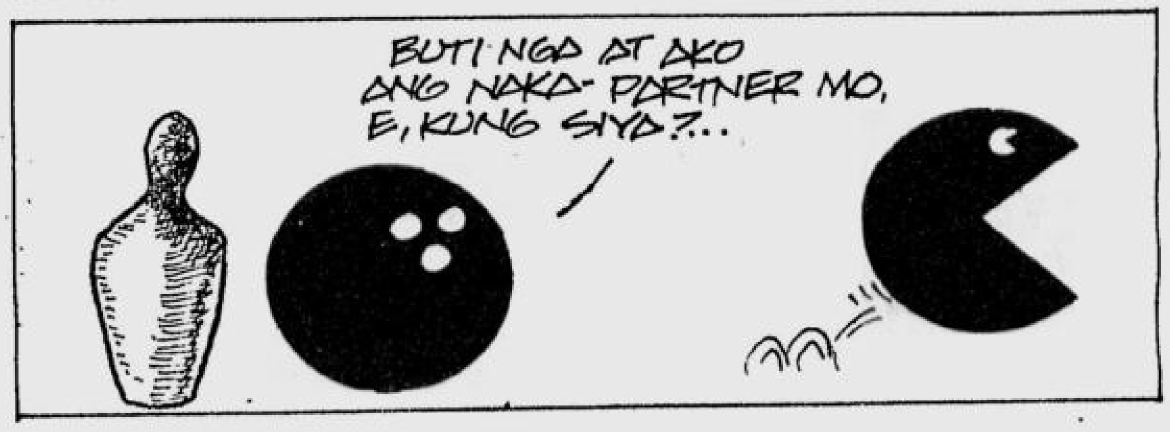
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG GUSTO NG SANTO PAPA AY IBALIK ANG SOLEMNITY NG MISA...
SANA...
IBALIK ANG LATIN MASS!!
IBALIK ANG GREGORIAN CHANT...
AT IBALIK ANG BELO!!!
TYPE KO YAN!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BUTI NGA AT AKO ANG NAKA-PARTNER MO, E, KUNG SIYA?...

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINM

Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Sma

Rufa Mae wants to be Rudy's one and only

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

EVEN WITH HER HECTIC SCHEDULE, **RUFA Mae Quinto** still misses her beau **Rudy Hatfield.**

"I'm still adjusting to our long-distance setup," she sighs. "The deportation case against him has been lifted but for now he wants to stay in the US *muna*. I hope to see him play in the PBA again."

Doesn't absence make the heart grow fonder … for another? Especially for a femme fatale like her who's hounded by admirers? She laughs, "I don't feel like a *diyosa naman*. I just always try to look good for the viewers. *Sila talaga ang* inspiration *ko* next to Rudy, of course."

Rufa Mae is wrapping up work on "Ako, Legal Wife." I teased her, "Will that ever be your line in real life?" She beams, "Not just legal; I want to be the only wife!"

I'm sure Rudy will happily oblige.

Echo's fan

Now that ABS-CBN 2's much-awaited "Panday" is about to be shown, guess who's most excited about it? **Jericho Rosales**' adorable 4-year-old son **Santino** (his love child with the ravishing **Kai Palomares**). Echo gave his *unico hijo* a poster of himself in Panday regalia. Santino has proudly displayed it in his room and fondly thinks of his dad as "Samurai Jack." Onscreen, Echo is continuing Panday's tradition of valor. Off-screen he's living proof that the age of chivalry ain't dead yet 'cause he's not running away from his paternal obligations—unlike most actors these days.

Once more…

I remember watching MYMP's gigs at Aruba when they were not yet famous. Back then, I already loved their original song "A Little Bit." Their vocalist, **Juris Fernandez** has the most crystal-clear voice I've ever heard. After MYMP's sold-out Music Museum concert, they are set to conquer the Big Dome in November. I wonder if Juris and **Chin** (guitars) miss their former band mate, Mike Manahan, (nephew of the revered **Johnny M**) now that they are already up there, Mike was with them during their struggling years. He also happens to be the ex of Juris. Heard that he decided to leave MYMP because Juris and he couldn't work well together after their split-up. Mike has gone solo now as "Michaelangelo." Will MYMP invite Mike to jam with them in Araneta for old time's sake? What a heartfelt rendition of MYMP's hit, "Tell Me Where it Hurts," Juris and Mike could do, 'huh? Once more with feeling?

'All About Men 2'

The much-awaited talked about sexy male revue "All About Men 2… Penis Talks Reloaded" premieres Oct. 14 at the Music Museum.

Jay Manalo, Christian Vazquez, Luis Alandy, Polo Ravales, Reggie Curley, Paolo Paraiso, RJ Rosales, Rich Vergara, Roselle Nava, Joy Viado and **Ricci Chan** went through rigorous rehearsals under acclaimed directors **Joel Lamangan** and **Mel Chionglo.**

"'Penis Talks 2'" is more demanding, sexier and bolder," claims director Joel Lamangan. "It has 25 original songs by **Vince de Jesus**

RUFA/ A22

HOW SHE LOST IT
A total of 22 pounds, that is, in the last four months. Sharon Cuneta is looking forward to losing 30 more… and then some. On page A22, find out how her husband, Sen Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan, cheers her on.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

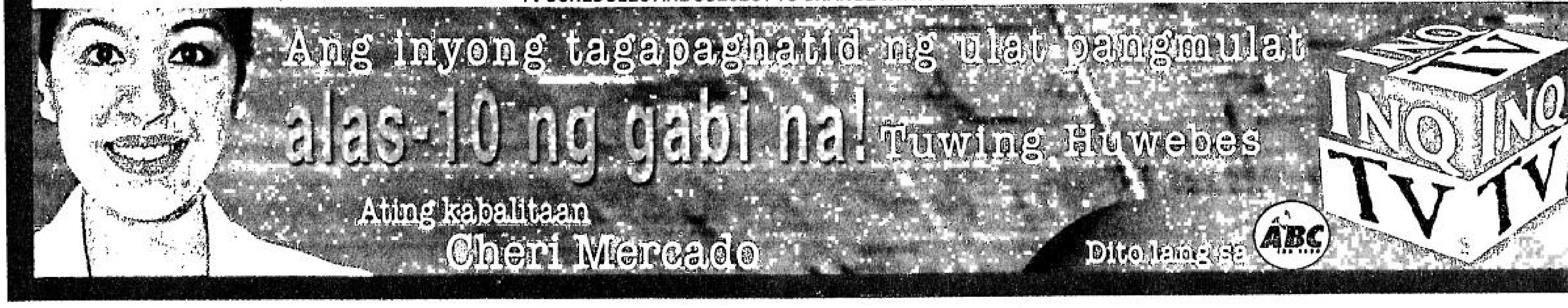
Thursday, October 13, 2005

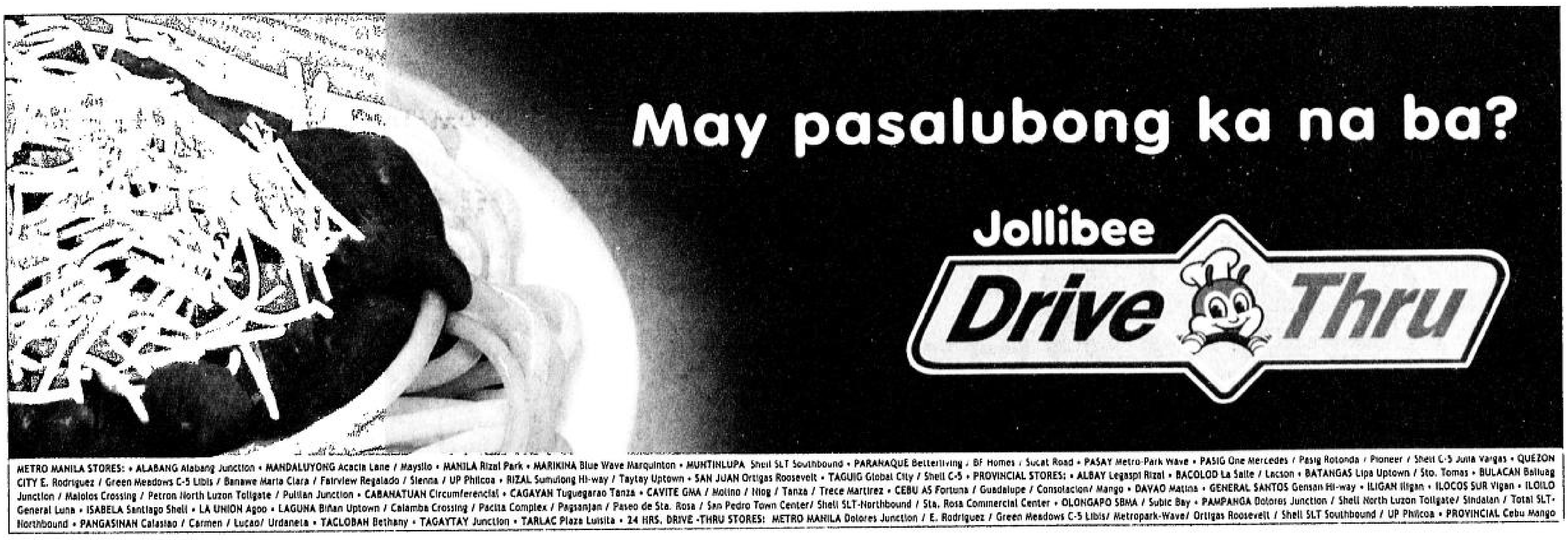
Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		New Life TV Shopping		Teledyaryo	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo				Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Bantay OCW With Susan K	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Amazing Twins	Meteor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Vietnam Rose	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Pinoy Big Brother	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		Barclays EPL		EPL Goals		Sentro	Sports Program					Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotelier	12 Kingdoms	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Darna	Encantadia	Sugo	My Sassy Girl	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Global Battle Of The Bands	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		The Ultimate Fighter		Traffic		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Japan Video Topics		ME TV		Demolition Nights		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop						Winner TV Shopping				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Just Shoot Me
MTV Philippines	MTV Alert	MTV Cribs	That MTV Chart Show		Pimp My Ride	Pop Inc		MTV Hits				MTV Hits	Get Spotted	TRL		PunkD	Brand New	MTV Hits	VH1 Video Collections
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX		Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Solar Sports			Davis Cup 2005					NBA PreSeason Game					Sports Desk	Spike TV's NBA Rookies		NBA Action	NBA TV Daily	Sports Desk	NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus					Golf Hawaii 2004	Celebrity Poker Tournament				Raceworld		NFL 2005						NASCAR Banquet 400 Kansas	
Cinemax		Gidget Goes To Rome (3:15PM)				Prehysteria			Empire Of The Sun					The Skulls III			Sniper 3 (10:40PM)		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	The Nanny	Mysterious Way		Strong Medicine		The Maldonado Miracle			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Mysterious Way
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Lizzie Mcguire		Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Zero Hour		Extreme Machines		IBM Innovation Hour		Wild Science		The Baby Human 2		Power Zone	
National Geographic		Megastructures		Marine Machines		Red Space		Top 5		Wow!		About Asia		Catastrophe The Super Twisters/ Nat'l Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Marine Machines	
Cartoon Network	Yogi Bear Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	What's New Scooby Doo?	Johnny Bravo	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		Courage The Cowardly Dog	What's New Scooby Doo?	Mike, Lu & Og	Time Squad	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Cow At The Moo-vies	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	E! News Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		E! True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Scrubs	8 Simple Rules	The Drew Carey Show	Less Than Perfect	The Apprentice		Friends	Scrubs
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI		The Amazing Race Family Edition		Alias (Season III)		The Contender		Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	24		24		The Shield	
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Beat The Geeks	WWE: Unforgiven				Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		GBB	Knock First	1 Hr Edited Version Of Today Show		Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		How To Deal			Lady Jane (4:45PM)					Once Upon A Time In Mexico				Elf			Out of Africa (10:40PM)		
Star Movies		Heart Of The Storm			Sense And Sensibility				Riding In Cars With Boys					Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story				Armageddon	
Cinema One		Rock-A-Bye Baby, Tatlo Ang Daddy				Sinungaling Mong Puso				American Adobo				Dyesebel				Dr. X On The Air	
EWTN	St. Faustina: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3:15PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation: God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.


Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat pangmulat
alas-10 ng gabi na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV



METRO MANILA STORES: • ALABANG Alabang Junction • MANDALUYONG Acacia Lane / Maysilo • MANILA Rizal Park • MARIKINA Blue Wave Marquinton • MUNTINLUPA Shell SLT Southbound • PARANAQUE Betterliving / BF Homes / Sucat Road • PASAY Metro-Park Wave • PASIG One Mercedes / Pasig Rotonda / Pioneer / Shell C-5 Julia Vargas • QUEZON CITY E. Rodriguez / Green Meadows C-5 Libis / Banawe Maria Clara / Fairview Regalado / Sienna / UP Philcoa • RIZAL Sumulong Hi-way / Taytay Uptown • SAN JUAN Ortigas Roosevelt • TAGUIG Global City / Shell C-5 • PROVINCIAL STORES: • ALBAY Legaspi Rizal • BACOLOD La Salle / Lacson • BATANGAS Lipa Uptown / Sto. Tomas • BULACAN Baliuag Junction / Malolos Crossing / Petron North Luzon Tollgate / Pulilan Junction • CABANATUAN Circumferencial • CAGAYAN Tuguegarao Tanza • CAVITE GMA / Molino / Nlog / Tanza / Trece Martirez • CEBU AS Fortuna / Guadalupe / Consolacion/ Mango • DAVAO Matina • GENERAL SANTOS Gensan Hi-way • ILIGAN Iligan • ILOCOS SUR Vigan • ILOILO General Luna • ISABELA Santiago Shell • LA UNION Agoo • LAGUNA Biñan Uptown / Calamba Crossing / Pacita Complex / Pagsanjan / Paseo de Sta. Rosa / San Pedro Town Center/ Shell SLT-Northbound / Sta. Rosa Commercial Center • OLONGAPO SBMA / Subic Bay • PAMPANGA Dolores Junction / Shell North Luzon Tollgate/ Sindalan / Total SLT-Northbound • PANGASINAN Calasiao / Carmen / Lucao/ Urdaneta • TACLOBAN Bethany • TAGAYTAY Junction • TARLAC Plaza Luisita • 24 HRS. DRIVE -THRU STORES: METRO MANILA Dolores Junction / E. Rodriguez / Green Meadows C-5 Libis/ Metropark-Wave/ Ortigas Roosevelt / Shell SLT Southbound / UP Philcoa • PROVINCIAL Cebu Mango

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THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 13, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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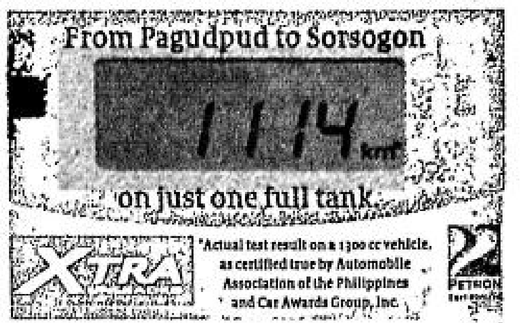
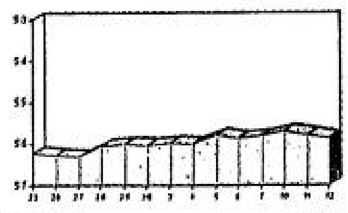

From Pagudpud to Sorsogon
1114 km*
on just one full tank
XTRA
*Actual test result on a 1300 cc vehicle, as certified true by Automobile Association of the Philippines and Car Awards Group, Inc.
PETRON

BIR sets audit of withholding tax payments

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER OCTOBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 55.865 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 12, 2005

¥ 114.64 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 12, 2005

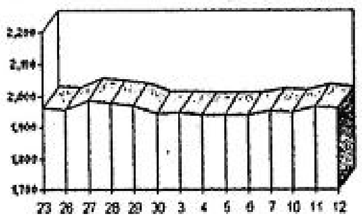
GOLD: $478.30-478.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 12, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

SEPTEMBER OCTOBER



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks down on profit-taking

SHARE prices closed 0.30 percent lower yesterday as investors took profits amid a lack of fresh leads, dealers said.

The profit-taking came after a 0.76-percent rise on Tuesday, allowing for a quick selloff in a market which overall continues to mark time amid continuing political tensions following allegations President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated in last year's elections.

The composite index fell 5.96 points to

STOCKS/ B2

Says delinquencies in remittances rampant

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue will conduct a massive audit of the withholding tax remittances of corporations from 2003 to 2004 in response to the rampant tax delinquencies in the withholding tax system.

The BIR has identified "dishonesty in the remittance of withheld taxes" as one of the major sources of tax leakages.

BIR Officer-in-Charge Jose Mario Buñag has signed a revenue regulation directing all regional directors, revenue district officers and assessment division chiefs of the BIR to come up with a list of corporate taxpayers suspected of remitting inaccurate amounts of withholding taxes during the two years covered by the audit.

The BIR will serve assessment notices (ANs) to the companies whose names will be approved for investigation. An assessment notice is a document stating the amount of unpaid tax liability of a taxpayer.

Under Revenue Regulation No. 23-2005, taxpayers to be covered by the tax audit will include general professional partnerships, the top 100 companies of each revenue district office that recorded a year-on-year growth in sales or an abnormal increase in expenses, closely held and family corporations, and companies that recorded a substantial drop in withholding tax remittances.

Withholding tax is a tax on income, such as of employees or suppliers of goods or services, that is withheld by companies acting as employers or clients.

BIR/ B2

Former Int'l School campus to be auctioned on Nov. 17

THE GOVERNMENT WILL AUCtion its Makati City property, which formerly housed the International School, on Nov. 17.

The Privatization Management Office (PMO) said it would be accepting bids on Nov. 17 for the property with a floor price of P1.186 billion. The auction will be held at the PMO office in Makati City.

The IS property along Kalayaan Avenue measures 48,832 square meters. It was said to have attracted the attention of several big property developers given its location near the central business district of Makati.

The four firms earlier reported to be interested in participating in the auction were Robinsons Land Corp. of the Gokongweis, Ayala Land Inc., Burgundy Realty Corp., and Centuries Property Group.

The Department of Finance earlier said the government could only undertake a negotiated sale for the property if the bidding on Nov. 17 would fail again. The coming bidding will be the third for the property. The first two were declared a failure.

The International School was the original owner of the property.

FORMER/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Robinsons to put up 4 Toys R' Us outlets /B3

PSBank to offer P2B tier 2 capital /B5

200,000 RP garments workers risk losing jobs /B8

PRESIDENT Arroyo meets Edward Muller, chair, president and CEO of Mirant Corp. during a courtesy call in Malacañang. EDWIN BACASMAS

Nickel firm eyes doubling of capacity

THE CORAL BAY NICKEL REFINery hopes to double its production capacity to more than 20,000 ton a year as demand for the steel-making additive surges, a senior executive said yesterday.

Miners are looking to the Philippines as a potential source of nickel for China's booming economy as the local mining sector emerges from a two-decade slump and the government chases $6.5 billion in foreign investment.

"We are looking at ways that we can double capacity because we need the nickel," Coral Bay Nickel Corp. president Takanori Fujimura told Reuters on the sidelines of a mining conference at the Manila Shangri-la Hotel in Makati City.

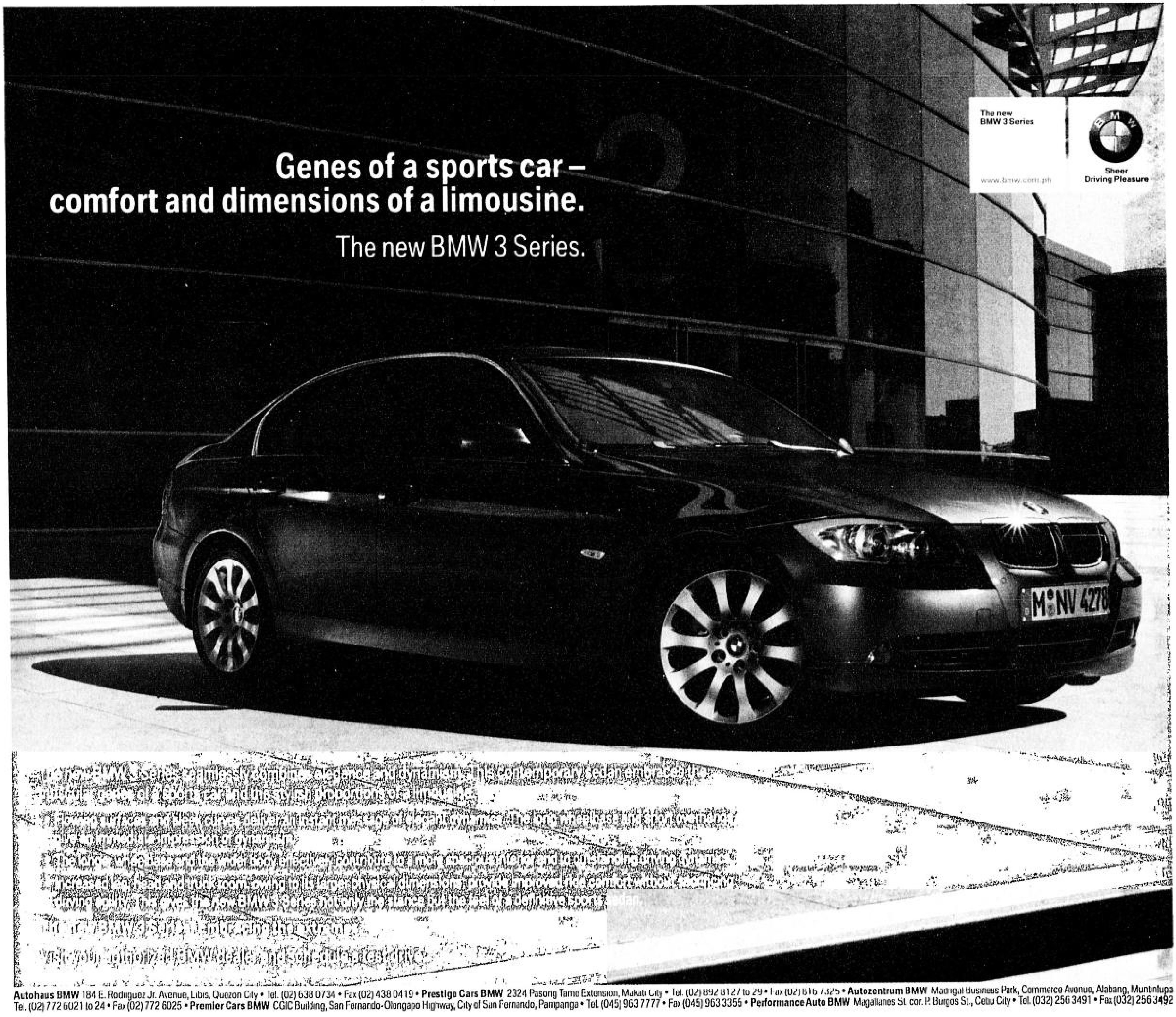
Coral Bay Nickel is 54-percent owned by Japan's Sumitomo Metal Mining Co. Ltd.

The refinery on the western island of Palawan, which was completed in April, has so far yielded about 3,000 tons of nickel, Fujimura said.

"We should produce another 2,000 tons by the end of the year," Fujimura said, adding that the firm would make a decision on capacity expansion by December.

The plant, which cost about $180 million to build, should meet its original production capacity of 10,000 tons a year in 2006, he said.

NICKEL/ B2



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Oh, I see!

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

NOW IT'S ALL UP TO THE BUREAU OF CUStoms OIC, or the "officer in charge," a stand-in named Alexander Arevalo.

As customs bureau OIC, Arevalo is not the REAL commissioner, but he must perform the duties, and also own up to the responsibilities, of the commissioner.

One of them, of course, is that he must make the final decision on whether or not to file charges against those who cheat on taxes and duties.

You know—those fabulous smugglers!

For one, men under Arevalo are recommending the filing of criminal charges against that famous Southern Cross, a local cement-importing firm owned by two colossal cement manufacturers in Japan.

Reports said that the BOC deputy commissioner, a lawyer named Gallant Soriano, who is also just another "OIC" (i.e. temporary) for intelligence and enforcement, already endorsed the filing of charges to the bureau's overall OIC (i.e. substitute). I see!

Look at that—from one OIC to another OIC. To be sure, some BOC officials are doing a good job in enforcing our customs law, even as mere OICs.

But just how strong an impact can this bunch of "OICs" make against the biggest headache of business nowadays—this barefaced smuggling of goods and everything?

Nobody of course can tell. But then again, the police under this cute administration can always resort to CPR against smugglers, instead of the citizens.

* * *

ANYWAY, the smuggling case against Southern Cross stemmed from a well-documented report of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The PCCI submitted it to the customs bureau only last July 29.

It must have been an open-and-shut case. The bureau's investigation and prosecution division took only two months to build the case against Southern Cross.

Without authorization from the customs bureau, based on the PCCI report, Southern Cross simply "withdrew" 46,000 tons of cement imported from Japan from its silo at the Harbour Centre.

Again, that's without any authorization whatsoever! Not even verbal authorization? Not even sign language authorization, okay!

In other words, Southern Cross did an out-and-out smuggling of truckloads upon truckloads of cement, taking them out of the piers.

As a result, according to the BOC investigation and prosecution division, the company only cheated the government of some P24 million in duties and taxes.

And smuggling is classified as a crime of economic sabotage, which in turn can reward your effort with the capital punishment.

* * *

I'M quite certain you already heard about Southern Cross. But for the sake of the victims of CPR, it is the same company that won a big case in the Supreme Court, one involving ... well, cement importation.

A few years ago, alarmed by the "dumping" of cement from Taiwan and Japan into the Philippines, this cute administration imposed "safeguard measures" against too much cement importation.

The Department of Trade, which was then under Sen. Mar Roxas, raised the tariff on imported cement, hoping the measures could help local cement companies survive the onslaught of dumped cement, thus preserving the jobs of thousands of workers at the local cement plants.

Southern Cross sued the DTI before the Supreme Court and, well, basically, won the case.

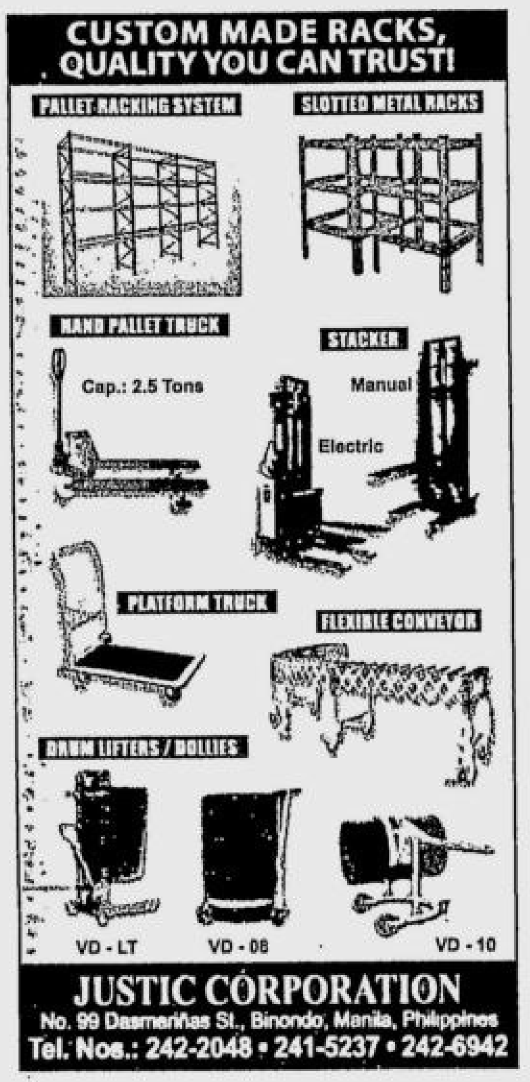
The Supreme Court in effect ruled against this cute administration. It stopped the government from protecting the local cement manufacturers against companies like Southern Cross. You know—smugglers.

* * *

IN the Southern Cross smuggling case at the customs bureau, aside from physically taking out the cement from its silo, the company did a little magic in its documentation.

Under the rules of the customs bureau, the local importer and the seller abroad must have no relationship whatsoever, if the importer claims the so-called transaction value, as against the home consumption value.

BREAKTIME/ B4



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FESTIVAL OF FESTIVALS
The CITY OF MANILA and CINEMANILA present its line-up of exciting events for this year's most-awaited festival:
Opening Night
The official opening of the festival on October 12 at the Manila Hotel
Screenings of acclaimed local and foreign films
Over seventy-five award-winning and critically-acclaimed films from different countries to be screened in selected theaters
Local Digital Film Competition
The grandest digital film festival in the country with over three million pesos to be given out in prizes
Philippine Digital Film Panorama
Featuring the Philippines' best digital films of 2005
Young Cinema Night
A short film exhibition especially dedicated to promising young filmmakers.
Awards Night
Happening at the Aliw Theatre on October 19, telecast over RPN 9
Raymond Red Retrospective
Featuring early films of 2000 Cannes Palm d'Or recipient Raymond Red
Korean Cinema Focus (Tribute to Kim Dong Ho and the Pusan International Film Festival)
Pusan Film Festival Director, Kim Dong Ho, graces Cinemanila as Korea gets the spotlight with their award-winning originals
Nordic Lights Program
A showcase of award winning films from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark
Lifetime Achievement Award
Cinemanila grants the Lifetime Achievement Award to Roger Corman, dubbed as the most prolific auteur in the international film industry
International Night
A gathering of foreign guests and the diplomatic community, with cocktails and special premieres co-sponsored by different embassies that seek to promote their homegrown films
Mayor's Day
A special day dedicated to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, recognizing his valuable contribution to the festival and the local film industry
2nd Boracay Co-Production Meeting
A gathering of local filmmakers and foreign producers to discuss future film projects
Cinemanila astig. Cinemanila orig. Cinemanila, cinema natin.
7th CINEMANILA international film festival
12-25 October 2005
SM Cinemas and Robinsons Place Cinemas and selected theaters in Metro Manila
Email: miff@cinemanila.com.ph • Website: www.cinemanila.com.ph

BIR ...

From page B1

According to the BIR's 2004 annual report, tax returns for withholding taxes accounted for 38.3 percent of the 11.24 million tax returns filed during that year. In 2004, the BIR collected a total of P468.18 billion.

The BIR said in the revenue regulation that tax auditors would use third parties as sources of information to detect actual withholding tax liabilities of a corporate taxpayer. One possible third-party information sources are the suppliers of goods and services themselves, whose declared amount of withheld income taxes can be compared with the actual withholding taxes remitted by the concerned corporate taxpayer.

The intended tax audit of withholding tax remittances is part of the BIR's efforts to shore up its revenue collection.

The BIR, which accounts for about 60 percent of the national government's revenue sources, is tasked to collect P547 billion this year to help the government attain its 2005 fiscal target of reducing the budget deficit to P180 billion. The budget deficit stood at P187 billion last year.

As of August, the BIR has already collected P354.69 billion.

Former ...

From page B1

The foreign-owned school has moved to the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr. said that privatization of state assets would be one of the key revenue-raising measures under the Arroyo administration. The government has adopted the policy of privatizing assets it deems could be better handled by the private sector.

Singson said other state assets included in the privatization list were Philippine Postal Corp., Al-Amanah Bank, and television stations RPN-9 and IBC-13.

Michelle V. Remo

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 12, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank, Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	20,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	31	30.5	31	31,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	52.5	52.5	52.5	365,900
China Banking Corp.	620	640	620	640	310
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	450,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49	49.5	49	49.5	29,800
International Exch. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	5,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	295,000
Philippine National Bank	30	31	30	31	11,800
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.5	8,400
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	2,500
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2840	2840	2840	2840	150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	140,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	100,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2010	2010	2005	2010	400
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14	14	13.75	14	39,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.9	0.91	1,340,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	735	735	730	730	5,610
Ipeople Inc.	2.7	2.75	2.5	2.5	101,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.05	0.048	0.05	24,200,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	974,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1695	1695	1690	1695	29,830
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.55	0.55	2,070,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	5,900,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	20,900
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.25	21	21	48,600
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	3,047,000
Petron Corp.	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.45	4,078,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	3,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.2	9.4	9.2	9.3	293,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	39,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	150,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.05	840,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	516,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	36	35.5	36	442,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.66	1.66	5,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	65	65	303,200
San Miguel Corp. B	91.5	91.5	91	91	327,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	630,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	287.5	287.5	280	282.5	116,420
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.95	4.95	4,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	14,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.08	2.06	2.08	396,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	12,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	170,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	15,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	1	0.99	1	2,080,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	490,000
CADP Group Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	85,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	560,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.15	3.1	3.15	824,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	620,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5.1	5	5	240,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	42.5	41.5	41.5	536,700
House of Investments Inc.	0.81	0.83	0.81	0.83	50,000
Ionics Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	20,000
Jardine Davies Inc.	29	30	29	30	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.9	4	3.9	3.95	2,501,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.76	1.76	10,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.016	0.014	0.016	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.36	761,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.3	12,190,000
Prime Orion Phils., Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	20,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	11,000
Solid Group, Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	900,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	219	218	219	413,090
Uniol Res. & Holdings Co	0.115	0.115	0.11	0.11	1,000,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	20,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	300,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.89	0.89	0.88	0.88	820,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	160,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	200,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	715,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	460,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14	14.25	14	14.25	365,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	11	11	11	11	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	11	11	11	11	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9.2	9.2	9.1	9.1	3,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.5	8.7	8.5	8.6	12,770,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	30,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.175	370,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	920,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	105,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	2,050,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	147,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	10,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	63,000
SM Prime Holdings, Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	3,455,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.92	0.95	0.92	0.95	780,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.92	0.96	0.92	0.95	580,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	1,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.2	293,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	3,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	22,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.215	16,540,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co B	0.24	0.245	0.235	0.235	19,120,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.022	0.022	0.022	900,000
Omico Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	80,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.94	1,100,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	841,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	25.5	2,020,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	170,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	13,000,000
Pacifica	0.009	0.009	0.009	0.009	2,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.15	4.15	240,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	130,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	140,000

CURRENCIES

October 12, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.833472	1.000000	55.7700
Japan	Yen	0.007282	0.008737	0.4873
United Kingdom	Pound	1.455909	1.746800	97.4190
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.107434	0.128899	7.1887
Switzerland	Franc	0.646554	0.775735	43.2627
Canada	Dollar	0.709338	0.851064	47.4638
Singapore	Dollar	0.492858	0.591331	32.9785
Australia	Dollar	0.627709	0.753125	42.0018
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.211858	2.653787	148.0017
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.222200	0.266596	14.8681
Brunei	Dollar	0.491405	0.589588	32.8813
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000083	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020358	0.024426	1.3622
UAE	Dirham	0.226955	0.272301	15.1862
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.199800	66.9128
Argentina	Peso	0.283977	0.340716	19.0017
Brazil	Real	0.372918	0.447427	24.9530
Denmark	Kroner	0.133977	0.160746	8.9648
India	Rupee	0.018616	0.022336	1.2457
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.221022	0.265182	14.7892
Mexico	New Peso	0.077102	0.092507	5.1591
New Zealand	Dollar	0.577917	0.693385	38.6701
South Africa	Rand	0.127721	0.153240	8.5462
Korea	Won	0.000802	0.000962	0.0537
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025093	0.030106	1.6790

Stocks down ...

From page B1

1,958.26 after trading between 1,957.64 and 1,964.74. Turnover was 260.60 million shares worth P596.84 million.

The broader all-shares index retreated 2.74 points to 1,187.46.

Losers beat gainers 40 to 21, with 56 stocks unchanged.

"It seems like the market has lost steam ... and is waiting for further leads," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

He said the market will most probably trade within narrow ranges in the coming sessions, with bargain-hunters likely to pick up stocks deemed cheap while some may accumulate ahead of the third-quarter earnings reporting season due later this month.

Ayala Land was top traded but ended unchanged at P8.60. Parent company Ayala Corp. fell P5 to P282.50, dragging down the main index.

AFP

Nickel firm eyes ...

From page B1

Sumitomo recently lost a long-term supply contract with Australia's WMC Resources to Chinese nickel refiner Jinchuan Nonferrous Group.

"We must find ways to make up for that nickel," Fujimura said.

He said that any moves to expand the refinery would need to take into account the high cost of raw materials and difficulty in obtaining engineering work given the global boom in minerals and petrochemical plant construction.

Reuters

Robinsons to put up 4 Toys 'R' Us outlets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE ROBINSONS RETAIL GROUP OF TYcoon John Gokongwei Jr. will put up four flagship Toys 'R' Us stores beginning the first half of next year, said Robinsons retail group president Lance Gokongwei.

Gokongwei said in a briefing yesterday that the first of these stores to open in April or May next year would be at the fourth level of the group's Robinsons Galleria mall in Ortigas, Pasig City.

The Robinsons Retail Group yesterday announced it reached an agreement with Li & Fung, the Asian franchise holder of American toy chain Toys 'R' Us, to bring the world's largest toy brand into the Gokongwei mall network.

The partnership is not exclusive, said Victor Fung, group chair for Li & Fung Ltd. who did not confirm if Li & Fung would also partner with the Ayala Group or the Filinvest Land Group.

Li & Fung has appointed Robinsons Toy Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Robinsons Inc., as the sub-licensee of Toys 'R' Us in the Philippines.

"This partnership will allow Robinsons to be a major retail player in children's toys, educational toys and electronic games in the Philippines, offering the best products at the best price within Robinsons Department Store Toyboxes and Toys 'R' Us stand-alone stores," Gokongwei said.

Aside from the flagship store in Galleria, Robinsons would convert all 23 toy areas of the Robinsons Department Store into Toys 'R' Us Toybox format by December 2007.

It also plans to put up stand-alone stores in leading malls nationwide.

Toys 'R' Us has 36 stores in five Asian markets—Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Taiwan and recently in Thailand.

Eastern eyes ₱2B in sales from stations

By Abigail L. Ho

INDEPENDENT OIL FIRM EASTERN PETROleum Corp. expects to rake in some P2 billion in additional revenues a year with the opening of 200 "energy stations" in the next three years.

Eastern Petroleum president Fernando Martinez said these new stations, which would sell alternative and traditional fuel and would need around P500 million to set up, would change the company's revenue mix as sales would likely shift to alternative fuels in the coming years.

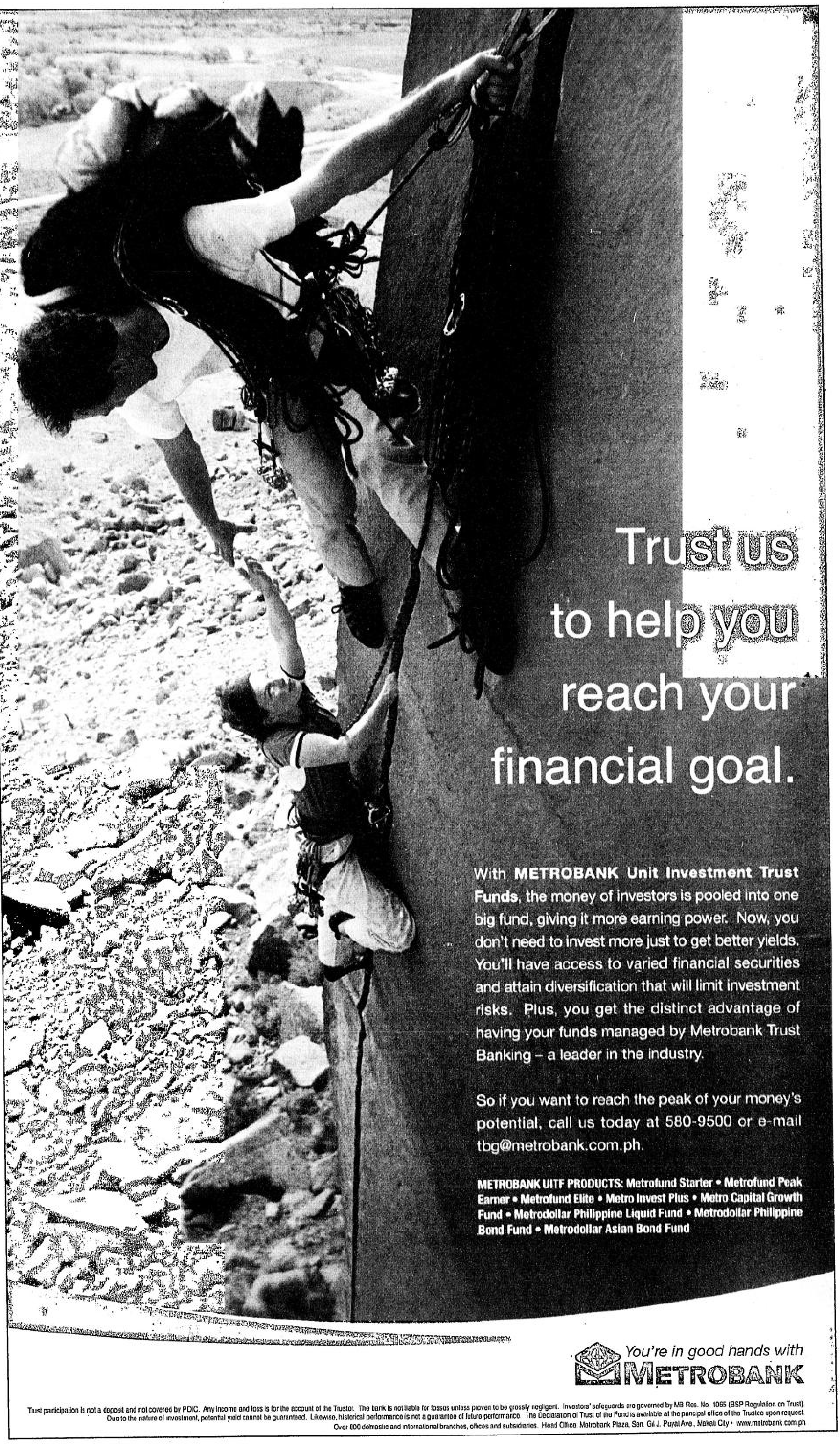
"At the end of five years, 80 percent of our sales will come from alternative fuels, as long as the current price difference is maintained," he told the INQUIRER.

Some small oil firms, including Eastern, have started selling coco methyl ester (CME)-blended diesel and ethanol-blended gasoline in their service stations, alongside traditional fuels.

CME-blended diesel costs around 60 centavos a liter more than regular diesel, while ethanol-blended gasoline is priced lower than regular gasoline by between 65 centavos and 71 centavos a liter.

Before Christmas, Martinez said Eastern Petroleum would be selling autogas, or liquefied petroleum gas for transport, in its stations.

In the longer term, he said autogas should account for the bulk of the oil firm's fuel sales.



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Proxy war looms over UIC

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE GROUP OF TAIPAN JOHN GOKONGWEI, Jr. is facing some stiff competition from Singaporean firms for control of office building developer United Industrial Corp.

In disclosures to the Stock Exchange of Singapore Tuesday, United Overseas Bank and United Overseas Land of banker Wee Cho Yaw said they increased their respective stakes in UIC to roughly 32.7 percent from 31.9 percent.

In its disclosure, United Overseas Land said it has beefed up its stake in UIC to 12.38 percent while United Overseas Bank also increased its stake in UIC to 20.33 percent.

Both companies are reportedly controlled by banker Wee Cho Yaw who holds about 25 percent of UIC through UOB and UOL.

Dow Jones reported that UIC's price during these additional purchases was at S$1.19 a share, above the Gokongwei Group's $1.09 a share bid.

Lance Gokongwei, president at Gokongwei flagship company JG Summit Holdings Inc., however, was mum yesterday when asked by INQUIRER whether the group was ready for a proxy war.

"I cannot comment on UIC," he merely said.

PCCI unveils RP roadmap

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF Commerce and Industry will present today to President Macapagal-Arroyo a comprehensive plan to make the country more competitive as a business destination.

PCCI president Donald G. Dee said the proposal covered 13 areas, including a comprehensive infrastructure development plan.

The plan is one of the highlights of the 31st Philippine Business Conference.

PCCI identified priority roads, including Edsa in Metro Manila, South Luzon Expressway and Southern Tagalog Arterial Road, and the various diversion roads along the Maharlika Highway.

The group also said the road connecting Ilocos Region to Cagayan Valley needed to be fast-tracked; roads in the Visayas needed to be revived and finally opened.

PCCI also wanted a circumferential road built to connect Eastern and Western side of Northwestern Panay; and a contract to build the Surigao del Sur section of a coastal road that connects the province to Davao Oriental awarded.

Dee said PCCI also calls for the privatization of ports in Manila's North Harbor controlled and operated by the Philippine Ports Authority, and increased private-sector participation in the advisory councils concerned with ports.

Other projects needed to be completed are the improvement of the Tuguegarao airport; upgrading of the Legazpi and Pili airports; development of the Laguindingan airport and expansion of the Caticlan airport.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Reference BCMD-APB-p05-998
Date October 4, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction and Installation of 230 & 69kV Substation Equipment & Various Facilities for Gamu Substation

Installing and/or erecting high voltage equipment such as 50 MVA Power Transformer including accessories; 230 & 69kV Power Circuit Breakers, its associated Disconnect Switches and Instrument transformers including metering, control, protection, communication; Site development and construction of Control house, Pump House and Guardhouse.

The Project is located at Barangay Linglingay, Gamu, Isabela in the Northern part of Luzon.

1 The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO), through the Annual Corporate Budget for the contract approved by the governing Board, intends to apply the sum of PhP 61,523,236.00, being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Construction and Installation of 230 & 69 kV Substation Equipment and Various Facilities for Gamu Substation (Sp05.GMUSS.Lc-0049). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

2. TRANSCO now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for furnishing labor, materials, equipment (except materials and equipment specified to be furnished by TransCo), supplies, tools and technical services including hauling, delivery and installing of high voltage substation equipment and other works to complete the project as detailed in the Bill of Quantities. Bidders must possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, and shall have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before October 28, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at the address given below and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 800.00 per copy. Applications for eligibility shall be evaluated on a non-discretionary "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: October 28, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at Wenceslao Dela Paz Function Room, Power Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. PCAB License and Registration Particular required should be as follows:

License Particular	at least Category "A", SP-Electrical Works
Registration Particular	at least "Medium B", SP-Electrical Works

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in Part A of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Pursuant to the above, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. A contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

4 Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the address given above on or before 9:00 a.m. of October 28, 2005.

5. Interested Prospective Bidders may obtain further information from TRANSCO and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting October 25, 2005.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP 7,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting November 18, 2005.

7 TRANSCO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders at 1:30 p.m. of December 7, 2005, venue to be announced later.

8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 9:00 a.m. of December 19, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and in amount stated in the Bidding Documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on December 19, 2005 at exactly 9:00 a.m. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address to be announced later.

9. The Contractor shall complete the works within Three Hundred (300) calendar days counted from the effectivity date stated in the "Notice to Proceed".

10. TRANSCO reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to the contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

MR. JOSE MARI M. ILAGAN
Manager, Bids and Contracts Management Department
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building
National Transmission Corporation
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Telephone No.: 981-2308; 981-2212; 981-2213
Facsimile No.: 921-2308
E-mail Address: jmilagan@transco.ph
Website address: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) GUILLERMO R. REDOBLADO
VP-Luzon Operation & Maintenance
& Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 6 & 13, 2005)

Breaktime

From page B2

Let's just say that the "transaction value" is the easier of the two for the customs bureau to do its job. You just have to declare the actual price that you pay for your importation. The bureau then charges you a commensurate amount of taxes and duties.

In short, it makes for a more honest BOC.

But what if the importer (in this case, Southern Cross) and the sellers (Taiheiyo Cement and Tokuyama Cement in Japan) connive to cheat the customs bureau, such as by hacking the "transaction value?"

That's why the rules say that the importer and the seller must have no relationship. And this was what Southern Cross precisely claimed in its import documentation, allegedly to reduce its tax and duty payment.

Whadayano—those same sellers in Japan, namely, Taiheiyo and Tokuyama, are the main stockholders of Southern Cross. Official SEC records already attested to that.

If that's not being related, then I am really Batman.

* * *

AND what, pray tell, was the "transaction value" claimed by the foreign-owned, Supreme-Court-case-winning company called Southern Cross for those 46,000 tons of cement imported from its parent firms in Japan?

Well, customs bureau documents showed that the company used a "transaction value" of $24 to $38 a ton.

In the Philippines, in comparison, locally made cement sells for as much as $65 a ton.

And here's the scoop—in Japan itself, where the importation of Southern Cross came from, the price of cement is an amazing $80 a ton.

Alright, maybe the Japanese cement manufacturers Taiheiyo and Tokuyama wanted to sell us their cement at a huge discount, perhaps out of compassion for this poor country with 11 million jobless, which is partly due to closures of hundreds of manufacturing plants, thanks mainly to a lot of importation, if not outright smuggling.

It is possible, why not? I just don't know if you're that gullible!

* * *

FOR the smuggling case, the customs bureau's investigator, a lawyer named Jose Lagac of the investigation and prosecution division, recommended the filing of charges against the manager of Southern Cross, and also its broker.

Also recommended for facing administrative cases were two personnel of the bureau—allegedly for "neglect of duty." Hmm.

And that's it?

You may ask, what about the Japanese principals of Southern Cross, who are the incorporators of the company, owning between them more than 95 percent of smugg... este, company.

Well, as I said, they are not only Japanese nationals, but they are also executives of Japanese business giants. Nobody in that position gets charged here. They just win cases in the Supreme Court.

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE
INVITATION TO SUBMIT OFFERS
MAKATI PROPERTY IDEAL FOR AN "IT PARK"

The Privatization and Management Office (PMO) of the Republic of the Philippines invites interested parties to participate in the Offer for Sale for the National Government-owned asset, which is the former site of INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA, INC. (ISM), with an aggregate area of 48,832 square meters, together with the school buildings and other improvements existing thereon, located at the ISM compound at Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City, on an "AS-IS, WHERE-IS" basis.

The asset is being offered as one package with a Floor Price of PESOS: ONE BILLION ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX MILLION FIVE HUNDRED NINETY SIX THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY (P1,186,596,750).

Offers will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the offerors on November 17, 2005 at 3:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

An information Package consisting of the Sale Documents and the Asset Specific Catalogue (ASC) on ISM shall be made available to parties who register their interest and pay a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Five Thousand (P5,000), Philippine Currency.

For details, please call the Marketing Department at telephone numbers 818-4733; 892-2145; fax no. 818-0906.

PMO reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to reject any or all offered price related to this invitation.

In the event this Offer for Sale becomes a failure, PMO reserves the right to accept proposals for the asset.

(PDI-Oct. 12, 13 & 14, 2005)

CREBA-HUDCC National Convention 2005

LINKING the Best in Philippine Property and Tourism to the World

Tagaytay Higlands, Tagaytay City
October 12-14, 2005

CREBA HUDCC NATIONAL CONVENTION 2005

Linking the Best in Philippine Property and Tourism to the World

LIST OF SPEAKERS

Cong. Eduardo C. Zialcita
Chairman - Commitee on Housing
Keynote Speaker

Mr. Allan J.M. Dalgleish
Managing Director- Colliers Int'l
TOPIC: "International Tourism Perspectives-Opportunities & Threats for the Philippines"

Ms. Judy Reinke
Councellor for Commercial Affairs-USA
TOPIC: "Building for the Future- Resources for Tourism Developmen"

Dr. Nathaniel Von Einsiedel-
Cahirman- Concep, Inc.
TOPIC: "Development Opportunities in Key Philippines Cities"

Mr. Robert Dean Barbers
General Manager-PTA.
TOPIC; Linking the Best in Philippine Property & Tourism to the World

Mr. Brian Tulloch
Chairman & CEO Resorts Suites Int'l
TOPIC: Next Generation Leisure Products and InvestmentOfferings

Mr.Bruce Tulloch
Managing Director
Ressorts Suites Int'l

USEC Oscar Palayabyab
Department of Tourism

H.E. Erendira Paz,
Mexican Ambassador to the Phils.
TOPIC: "View on Phil. Property Dev't & Tourism-Mexico"

Ms. Gemma Cruz-Araneta
President-Heritage Conservation
TOPIC: "Pride of Place

Mr. Kok Hong Chong
Business Development Manager-RCI Asia Pacific
TOPIC: Enabling Phil. Tourism to Compete in the Int'l. Market

Mr. Samie Lim
VP for Tourism,Retailing and Frachising-PCCI
TOPIC: "PCCI Investour-5 Point Program

Housing Forum Resource Speakers

Vice Pres. Noli De Castro
Chairman HUDCC
Guest of Honor And Speaker

Vice Chair Amado Bagatsing
HUDCC

Sec. Michael Defensor
DENR

Pres. Romero F.S. Quimbo
Pag-Ibig Fund

Pres Gonzalo B.A. Bongolan
Home Guaranty Corporation

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CREBA-HUDCC NATIONAL CONVENTION 2005
October 12-14, 2005 Tagaytay Highlands, Tagaytay City
THEME: "CREBA-HUDCC: Linking the Best in Philippine Property and Tourism to the World"

PROGRAMME

SPORTS DAY OCTOBER 12, 2005 (Wednesday)
Day Chairs Ms Lilia Aaron-Paterno / Engr Manny T Ramos
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB

6:30-7:30 am Golf Tournament Registration (Tee-time: 7.00-9.00 a.m.)
10.00 am Courtesy Call with HON. ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Mayor - Tagaytay City
3:00pm Awarding of Golf Winners

CONVENTION PROPER OCTOBER 13, 2005 (THURSDAY)
Day Chair Ms Cathy D. Yulo
MULTI PURPOSE HALL - Business Attire

A.M
7.00-8:30 Arrival & Registration
8:30-9:30 FORMAL OPENING CEREMONIES
Entry of Colors by Cavite State University Cadets
Chapter Roll Call
Doxology & National Anthem by Provincial Health Office Chorale Group
CREBA Hymn by Convention Committees
Call to Order & Opening Remarks by DR. JAIME A. CURA, National President
Opening Remarks by VICE CHAIR AMADO S. BAGATSING, HUDCC
Welcome Remarks by HON. ABRAHAM N. TOLENTINO, Mayor - Tagaytay City
Overview of the Convention by MR. EFREN L. ALAS, Overall Chairman
2004 Convention Highlights by MS. AVELINA P. ACUÑA, 2004 Overall Chair
Coffee Break / Snacks
Introduction of Keynote Speaker by DIR. REGHIS M. ROMERO II, CREBA National
9:30-10:30 Address
CONG. EDUARDO C. ZIALCITA, 2nd District, Parañaque City & Chairman - Committee on Housing

SESSION I
10:30-11:00 MR. ALAN J.M. DALGLEISH, Managing Director - Colliers International Phils., Inc.
Topic: "International Tourism Perspectives - Opportunities & Threats for the Phils."
11:00-11:30 MS. JUDY REINKE, Counselor for Commercial Affairs – US Embassy
Topic: "Building for the Future - Resources for Tourism Development"
11:30-12:00 DR. NATHANIEL VON EINSIEDEL, Chairman - Concep, Inc.
Topic: "Development Opportunities in Key Philippine Cities"
12:00-12:30 MR. BRIAN TULLOCH Chairman & CEO – Resorts Suites Int'l. – Asia Pacific

MOA SIGNING by CGI, IPREA, PARA

SESSION II
2:00-2:30 H. E. ERENDIRA PAZ, Mexican Ambassador to the Philippines
Topic: "View on Philippine Property Development & Tourism-Mexico"
2:30-3:00 USEC. OSCAR PALABYAB, Department of Tourism
3:00-3:30 MS. GEMMA CRUZ-ARANETA, President - Heritage Conservation Society
Topic: "Pride of Place"
3:30-4:00 MR. KOK HONG CHONG, Regional Manager - RCI Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.
Topic: "Enabling Philippine Tourism to Compete in the International Market"
4:00-4:30 MR. SAMIE LIM, VP for Tourism, Retailing and Franchising - PCCI
Topic: "PCCI InvesTour - 5 Point Program"
Coffee Break / Snacks
4:30-5:00 OPEN FORUM
MS. MINDA P. LADORES / MR. THAD R. LIAMZON
Masters of Ceremonies

EVENING
7:00-9:00 pm Dinner at Tagaytay Highlands Veranda
9:00-11:00 CHAPTER'S NIGHT (Attire: Smart Casual)
CREBA STARSTRUCK - HIP-HOP COMPETITION"

HOUSING FORUM OCTOBER 14, 2005 (FRIDAY)
Day Chair Mr Victor Mananing / Arch. Henry Ocnan
MULTI PURPOSE HALL, TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS - Business Attire

6:30-7:30am Breakfast
7:30-9:30 CREBA Directorate / Chapter Presidents Meeting
9:30-10:00 Invocation by DIR. BENSON L. PERELONIA, CREBA National
National Anthem & CREBA Hymn by CREBA Chapter Presidents
Call to Order by DR. JAIME A. CURA, National President
10:00 Coffee Break / Snacks
[illegible] MS. TECHIE P. BAUTISTA [illegible]
10:30-12:30pm CREBA-HUDCC FORUM ON CONTINUING CONCERNS
ATTY MA. LISA G. RESURRECCION Head - CLUPPI Department of Land Reform
SEC. MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR Department of Environmental & Natural Resources
USEC. EDUARDO R. SOLIMAN Department of Interior & Local Government
PRES. ROMERO F.S. QUIMBO Pag-ibig Fund

Panelists:
VICE CHAIR AMADO S. BAGATSING Housing & Urban Dev't Coordinating Council
PRES. GONZALO B.A. BONGOLAN Home Guaranty Corporation
PRES. JOSEPH PETER SISON National Home Mortgage Finance Corp
COMM. ROMULO Q. FABUL Housing & Land Use Regulatory Board
GM. FEDERICO A. LAXA National Housing Authority

PSBank to offer ₱2B tier 2 capital

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK, A UNIT OF LOcal banking giant Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., plans to raise P2 billion in fresh capital through a subordinated debt or tier 2 offering.

PSBank wants to boost its capital base to prepare itself for more stringent rules on accounting as well as capital adequacy under the Basel 2 framework, the bank told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

The country's second biggest thrift bank is set to appoint a financial adviser for the offering, which shall be its first foray into the capital market.

The subordinated debt offering is intended to be a peso-denominated issuance, but the bank has yet to decide on the exact timing.

Capitalized at P4.4 billion and with total resources of at least P52.9 billion, PSBank's size is now comparable to a medium-size commercial bank.

The thrift bank is now working on the growth of its balance sheet without sacrificing asset quality. It also hopes to keep its non-performing loan ratio at only 6 percent, better than the thrift bank industry's average ratio of 8.69 percent as of end-July.

Once the planned tier 2 offering is completed, PSBank shall exceed even the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' P5 billion minimum capital requirement for a universal or expanded commercial bank.

PSBAnk is eyeing a 30-percent growth in net profits this year over 2004 on the expected expansion in its core consumer banking business. But given its strong performance in the first nine months, the bank expects to exceed its full year target.

The bank's growth is still seen to come from the consumer business, particularly housing and auto loans. But lending to small and medium enterprises has likewise picked up despite the domestic political turbulence.

Meanwhile, the BSP has announced plans to widen capital-raising opportunities for banks by allowing the use of hybrid debt instruments as core or tier 1 capital.

At present, only common and preferred shares could qualify as core or tier 1 capital.

"In global practice, some hybrid instrument is permissible," said Nestor Espenilla Jr., BSP deputy governor. "It's a debt instrument with certain features that make it equity-like. So, for purposes of regulation, we can qualify them as tier 1 capital but there are limits."

Under international practice, the amount of hybrid tier 1 capital that banks could raise should not exceed 15 percent of total capital, he stressed.

"But it's useful for banks in increasing their capital base, and they can use it for the implementation of international accounting standards and Basel 2 (risk-weighted capital adequacy rules)," Espenilla said.

"They are typically debt instruments with long maturity and, under adverse conditions, they will not pay any interest to the holder so, in that sense, they share in the losses of the bank," he said.

Cebu Pacific seen to meet ₱8B '05 target

By Clarissa S. Batino

CEBU AIR PACIFIC IS LIKELY TO MEET ITS P8-billion revenue target this year despite the burden of high fuel prices and, consequently, higher ticket costs that may discourage travel.

Lance Gokongwei, Cebu Pacific president, said the company was on track with its full-year target especially with the arrival of brand-new, more efficient and less fuel-consuming aircraft.

"We are on track," said Gokongwei. "We will meet our targets."

The targets Gokongwei has set for the airline business is a net profit of P300 to P400 million and a revenue of P8 billion.

The first semester numbers has not been encouraging. The country's second largest carrier posted a net income of only P30.7 million against P395.4 million a year ago due largely to increased fuel costs. Revenue went up two percent to P4.02 billion.

Cebu Pacific last month received the first of 12 brand new 150-seater Airbus 319s. The company is also leasing two brand new 179-seater Airbus 320s.

The $500-million re-fleeting would make Cebu Pacific's aircraft among the newest in the region and certainly the youngest in the country, Gokongwei said.

Once the company has completed its re-fleeting in February 2007, the company would cut down cost by 30 percent for each passenger.

With the new planes, he said the company would be consuming 45 percent less fuel.

Gokongwei assured that the company would pass on a lot of the savings derived from efficiency to its customers.

Cebu Pacific's sales sagged from the second half of 2004 until the first quarter this year when passengers were reluctant to board the company's old planes.

Cebu Pacific passengers should reach about 3 million this year, of whom about 2.7 million are to travel domestic routes.

Offers pouring in for Surigao chromite project

By Christine A. Gaylican

STATE-OWNED NATURAL RESOURCES MINing Development Corp. has received offers from 13 interested local and foreign investors for a joint venture in developing the Dinagat Island chromite reservation project in Northern Surigao.

"The number of interested firms, who may want to be our joint venture partner to develop the Dinagat Island reserves, may still increase as the final submission of eligibility documents will be on Oct. 13 (today)," said Artemio Disini, NRMDC president.

The pre-bidding conference will be on Oct. 28, Disini yesterday told reporters at the sidelines of the Asean Federation of Mining Associations forum.

The NRMDC Dinagat chromite reservation, covering 9,775 hectares, has two project areas: Parcel 1 is the 600-hectare area in Barangay Esperanza, Lorenzo; while Parcel 2 covers 9,175 hectares on the southern tip of the island.

At the moment, 1,000 miners are now undertaking small-scale operations on the project site, Disini said.

Based on studies conducted by the United Nations Development Program during the 1980s and the 1990s, there are significant chromite and copper deposits in the government area still waiting to be tapped.

According to Disini, the corporate arm of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has been advised by its financial adviser, the Development Bank of the Philippines, to go into strategic joint venture arrangements with interested partners for the project that may require about P1 billion.

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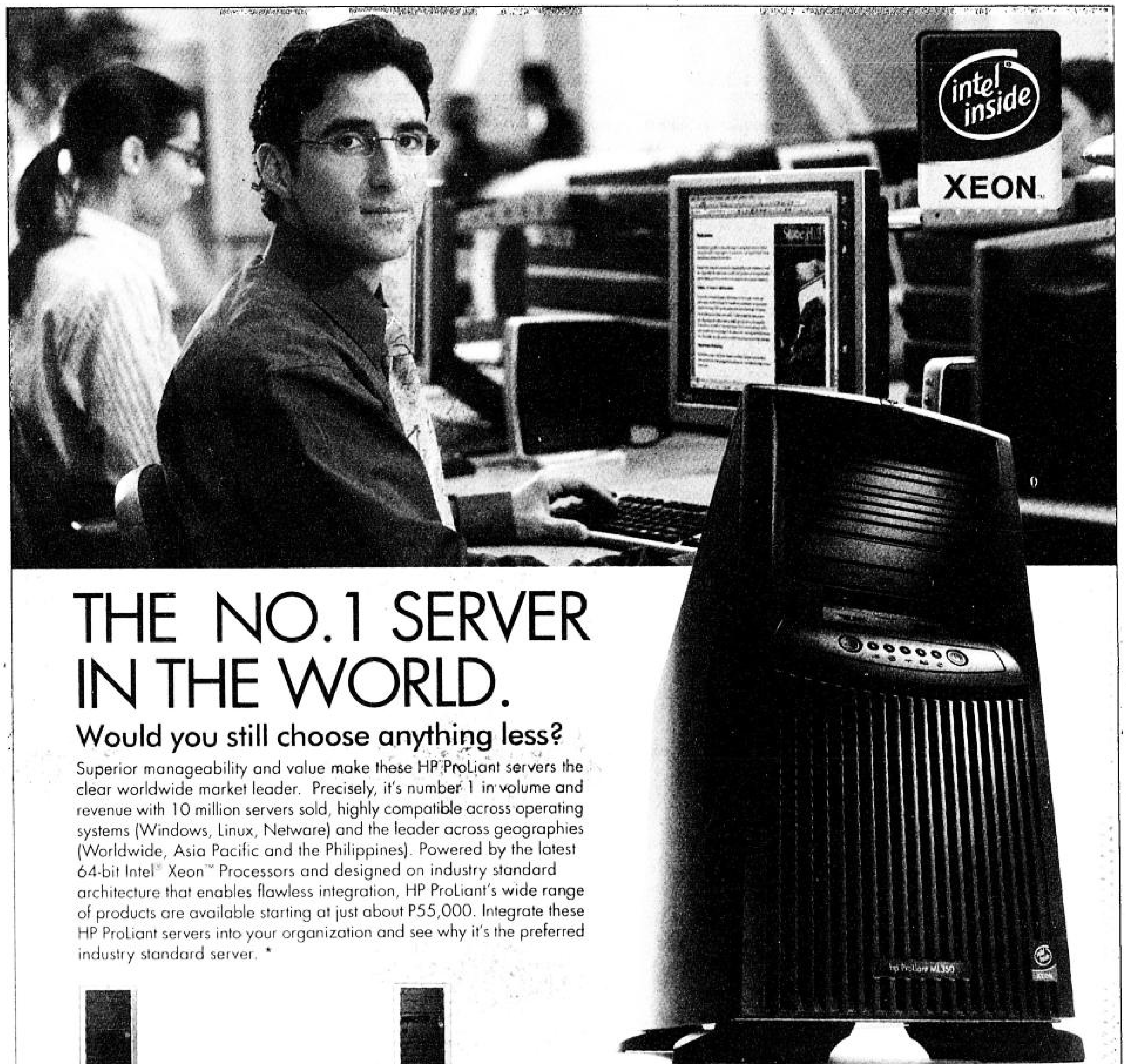

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H'WORKING MAIDS 421-3828

Need Maids 0921-2781017 / 4328194

BEST MAIDS 8294261

Trusted Maids Yaya Driver 7572089

WE HAVE STAY-IN & PART TIME MAIDS DRIVERS, ETC. FOR FIL & FOREIGN CLIENTS # 5529245 / 7295838

LIPAT BAHAY

•731-6833•LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

C-BAHAY 8383742/09282315360

•LBAHAY 7113540

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

LIPAT BAHAY

OPEN&CLOSE VANS TEL#731-8549

•1200/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MARIKINA

New2styComl cg 3M 9487112

QUEZON CITY

★ KATIPUNAN EXT ★ LA315 to 3648 CommlMainRd P9500-10T/m² 0918-9235216

HOUSE & LOT

LOT OWNERS! We'll build UR house No Dwn Payment! 10 yrs In House Financing! Hurry Promo w/in 30 days only! 4384813/2491886 Kel

MAKATI

Lots, H&L C5 nr Fort
1.4M-13M Nr McKinley Hills 4-5br 10% DP or 3Yrs No Int or No DP 10mins Fr. Ayala 0917-8313226

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
BnewThse/3stry/3br/3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.965M8903461

MARIKINA

Bnew 4br 3tb jacuzi 3M 9487112

PASIG

Greenpark 2.5M Bnew 3br2cg attick 20%dp terms09178511193

QUEZON CITY

PROJ 8 3BR 3TB 304sqm w/ Car Garage nr. M'danao / Congres'l Ave. 09212357965 / 9828896 ED

VARIED AREAS

Mariposa Loop Cubao
Loyola Grand Villas Ph1
Greenview Subd Fairview
Sct.Limbaga Timog
Bankers Vill Caloocan
Joy 0917-5339026 / 7222572

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

10%DP Lipat Agad!
1.3M-Up 3Yrs. No Int 2-4BR C5 Near Fort / Mkti 0917-8169849

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ABROAD

PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST

(Chemist or Chemical Engineer)

1. B.S. degree in Chemistry
2. Male/Female
3. Must have hands on experience with analytical instruments HPLC, and G.C., Dissolution, UV and familiarity with USP and NF.
4. H-1 Visa is an advantage
5. Resumé, Transcript of Records and 2x2 picture.

Interview will be held on Oct. 18-20, 2005 at Heritage Hotel, EDSA Pasay City. Please call Lilia Sta. Ana at 838-48-57; 0920-9525251 for the schedule.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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Start @ 1.9M or 10,000/mo RFO
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524-2760/0917-8248178 Edwin

VISTA DE LAGO VILLAS
ACROSS D'FORT 10MIN TO AYALA
1.3M 2BR, 2.7M 4BR 10%DP
MOVE-IN BAL 4YRS 0%INT
0920-6348545

MANDALUYONG

CONDO, BNEW, 09192189817

MANDA NEAR SHAW
BnewThse/3stry/3br/ 3-4tb maids1-2grgeP3.645M8903461

PARANAQUE

Chateau De Bay Condo
171.78m² incl carpark fully furn
P30T rent P4M sale neg
0921-5799456 Aileen

QUEZON CITY

Cubao P1.5M 10%DP 5yrs to Pay 0% Int move-in 9126976

OLYMPIC HTS Eastwood City 3BR W/parking P4.2M 687-2773 0917-8278714 DBO

Sct Tuazon 1.75M 4163161

LOT

KALOOCAN

313sqm Nadurata 700-9851

MAKATI

324m² along Mascardo St. P10M Call/Txt Myrna Aragon (046)507-2095/09103344569

QUEZON CITY

1151m² contact Arnulfo Go 9532616/09177494499 Ceazar Go 09212257503 #9 14th St. New Manila QC

GRAND VILLAS Top Row w/view back ATENEO LOTS hse & lots avble 426-5650
929-1832 • 0919-8212235

NORTH F'VIEW Adj Lots 300m² LA @ P3,650/m² 12 mins. 2 SM FV CASH Only 09178511502

RUSH ACROPOLIS 330; 344m² AM
SUN 8894796/ 6337601-03

LAGUNA

CALAMBA PALO ALTO 3HA P21M 8435621

LBA PH.1 385K 120SQM REG. LOT STA ROSA NR SCH MALLS KIM 8228991

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

FACTORY OR BODEGA 3500SQM FL.A/MAKATI 8096822 MALVAR FARM 16HAS.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CTL8 1BR FURN 11T 9299835

Mkt 2Br/Tb P12.5/Studio P9T Nice Tel/Prkg/NoDue8906374

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MANILA

1 & 2BR Nr.PGH 5634007/5891978

1BR FAURA 5642622

MANDALUYONG

2BR 2TB Wack² 0918-9420180

QUEZON CITY

1BR Across Ateneo 9268804

Burgundy Katipunan fronting Ateneo 2BR furn rent19Tneg 0928-7963956•0917-6303454

ROOM & BOARD

Mkt. Condo M/F P1.8up NoCurf Nice Prkg/Canteen 8906331

BEDSPACE

Mkti nr Ayala P1T Ldy 8974697

BUSINESS RENTAL

CUBAO fabshp 500m² 7257342

PTAMO nr BUENDIA
38-185m² 8903461 o/c hrs

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1.4% MONTHLY 8976644-46 LAS PINAS 8054326 / 6342 QUEZON CITY 3730239-40 CAINTA/PASIG 2401300/3500 LLOYDS FINANCING CORP.

BUSNES DCTOR 524-3197 0919-3227420

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

•BRAND NEW NISSAN PROMO SENTRA NO DOWN PAYMENT X-TRAIL 70DP, URVAN 94DP ACCEPT TRADEIN ANY BRAND 09214937607 09172587749

MITSUBISHI

02 LANCER GLS 1.6L A/T
1st Own Casa-Maintained
0917-801-2260 or 931-2294 or 716-1778 P393T

NISSAN

CEFIRO 1999 V6 435K A/T BLCK, ALL LEATHER WOOD PANEL ELEGANT KIM 8228991

TOYOTA

PAJERO Exceed09206911125

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 656-0140
United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% w/o taking car 7880183-84

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% Auto Express 5221001

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

1ST UP NEW COMPL IMPTD 7767507

1ST UP NEW COMPL IMPTD 7767507

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

Exclnt Dog Sch 0919-2050952

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of ale RODOLFO EXCONDE CARRILLO was settled extrajudicially by way of a Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement executed in Makati City on October 8, 2005 by his heirs. The Deed has been acknowledged before Aris L. Gulapa a Notary Public in and and for Makati City on October 8, 2005 and entered in his notarial register as Doc No. 353 Page No. 72 Book No. I Series of 2005.
PDI-Oct. 13, 20 & 27, 2005

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JUAN B. CRUZ JR. has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 147, Page No. 31, Book No. 39A, Series of 2004 before Notary Public Lope M. Velasco of Makati City.
(PDI- Sept. 29, Oct. 6 & 13, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

(VISAYAS)

Department of Agriculture RO-7 Compound, M. Velez. St., Guadalupe, 6000 Cebu City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS
(In compliance with R.A. 7041)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II, Item No. OMBA-GI02-22-2004; SG-27; **EDUCATION**: Bachelor of Laws; **EXPERIENCE**: Four (4) years of experiece in the practice of law, counseling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related works: **TRAINING**: 24 hours relevant training; **ELIGIBILITY**: R.A. 1080 (BAR).

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I (Non-Lawyer), (2) Item Nos. OMBA-GIOI-24-2004, OMBA-GIOI-25-1998; SG-26: **EDUCATION**: Master's Degree relevant to the job; **EXPERIENCE**: 5 years of experiece in conducting community work, systems studies/ analysis, counseling, investigation or other related work: **TRAINING**: 32 hours or relevant training: **ELIGIBILITY**: Career Service (Professional); Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position.

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II; (4) Item Nos. OMBA-AGIO2-55-2004; OMBA-AGIO2-68-2004; OMBA-AGIO2-75-2004; OMBA-AGIO2-82-2004; SG-18 **EDUCATION**: Bachelor of Laws or Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; **EXPERIENCE**: six (6) months of experience in conducting community work systems studies/analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work, (for Law graduates); One (1) year of experience in conducting community work, systems studies/ analyses, counseling, investigation or other related work (for other Bachelor's degree holder): **TRAINING**: 8 hours of relevant training: **ELIGIBILITY** : RA 1080 (BAR) for Law graduates : or other Career Service (Professional) Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position, for other Bachelors degree holder.

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I: (4) Item Nos. OMBA-AGIO1-131-2004; OMBA-AGIO1-132-2004; OMBA-AGIO1-133-2004; OMBA-AGIO1-135-2004; SG-15: **EDUCATION**: Bachelor of Laws; **EXPERIENCE**: None required; **TRAINING**: None required; **ELIGIBILITY**: RA 1000 (BAR) or **EDUCATION**; Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; **EXPERIENCE**: Six (6) months of experience in conducting community work systems studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work; **TRAINING**: None required; **ELIGIBILITY**: Career Service Professional.

CLERK III; (2) Item Nos. OMBA-CK3-33-2004; OMBA-CK3-35-2004; SG-6; **EDUCATION**: Completion of two years studies in college; **EXPERIENCE**: None required; **TRAINING**: None required; **ELIGIBILITY**: Career Service (Subprofessional) First Level Eligibility.

DRIVER I; Item No. OMBA-DRV1-16-2004; SG-3 **EDUCATION**: Elementary School Graduate; **EXPERIENCE**: Non required; **TRAINING**: None Required; **ELIGIBILITY**: Driver's License (MC 11, s.96-Cat.II)

Interested applicants willing to be assigned in Iloilo City should submit applications within (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Administrative Division, at the above address, the following requirements pursuant to Office Order No. 49-05:

1. A letter stating the position applied for:
2. Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (Civil Service Commission Form No.212)
3. "1x1" picture (colored);
4. BAR/Board rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5. Transcript of Records;
6. Certificates of Seminars/Trainings attended;
7. Service Records of Certificates from previous/present employers stating the position assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable);
8. Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9. Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently emplyed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Deadline for the Submission of the above requirements is on November 4, 2005.

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
dti TRADE & INDUSTRY

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that M.D. INFOMAN SOLUTIONS, INC. is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New ICT-Enabled Service Firm in the field of Data Entry Services on a Non-Pioneer Status and with project/plant site located at 12th Floor, A Ayala Life Building, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang-Zapote Road, Ayala-Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Metro Manila.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI-Oct. 13, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
Industry and Investments Building
385 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
Tel. No.: 897-6682 / 890-1332; Fax No. 895-8322

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the application of Amley Food Corporation with office address at Phividec Industrial Estate, Sta. Ana, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, for registration with the Board of Investments under Book I of the Omnibus Investments Code of 1987, otherwise known as E.O. 226, as amended, as new Export Producer of Tropical Dried Fruits at a capacity of 20 tons per month, and with base of operations at Sta. Ana, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental has been officially accepted on Oct. 10, 2005, and is currently being processed.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file his/her objection, in writing and under oath, with the Board of Investments within one (1) week from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) RUDY B. CAÑA
Director
Project Evaluation & Registration Department

(PDI - Oct. 13, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Francisco S. Que has been extrajudicially settled by their legal heir as per Doc. 056, Page 91, Book 09, Series 2005 of Notary Public Atty. Elmer A. Galicia of Mandaluyong (PDI-Oct. 13, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

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MALE/FEMALE

ACCOUNTING STAFF (2) M/F, Accounting grad. Computer-literate, with secretarial skill Call 031-6910 (ANA)

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Marcos hi-way, Cainta Rizal (beside San Benildo Sch)
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Starts on:October 8-25, 2005
NEW ARRIVAL EVERYDAY
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0916-2009813 0918-5886075

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

IMMEDIATE HIRING AUDITOR SALES REP M/F ACCOUNTING STAFF, LATERO, COMP SCIENCE GRAD MECHANICAL INDL ELEC 3613802 /3642032

MALE/FEMALE

MALE COOK EXPERT ITALIAN & SEAFOOD CUISINE MALE RESTAURANT MANAGER FEMALE COMPUTER SECRETARY & WAITRESS 18-24 YRS OLD COL. LEVEL AT LEAST W/ EXPERIENCE LOC. PASAY RD. MKT CEL # 09189002082/8951573

URGENT HIRING EXPD FOOT BODY MASSEUR 18-25 yrs 09204520169 09224865417 1135 SOLER ST BDO MLA

Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT
HOLY CROSS
DASMARIÑAS
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BULACAN
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(632) 893 8374 to 77

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

"I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me."

John 14:6

Our Dearly Beloved

DOÑA LORETTO-BONOAN VDA DE TABIOS

Peacefully joined her Creator
on October 6, 2005 at the age of 91.

She is survived by her children: **Flossie** (†) - **Jun**, **Fannie** - **Fred**, **Sonny** - **Josie**, **Lorie**, **Cen** (†) - **Conching**, **Cora** - **Eddie**, **Mario** - **Mildred**, and **Putchie**.
Grandchildren: **Rhea**, **Inton** - **Gidget**, **Mickey** - **Jinky**, **Erwin**, **Krizzia**, **Pong** - **Pinky**, **Pia** - **Pie**, **Pinky**, **Bambina**, **Mitchie** - **Noel**, **Christine**, **Jomer**, **Vince**, **Nick**, **Chias** - **Niño**, **Julius**, and **Stefano**.
Great-Grandchildren: **Maicah**, **Miko**, **Nathan**, **Brandon**, **Cheska**, and **Elijah**.

Her body lies in state at their residence,
San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 15, 2005
at the San Nicolas Cemetery after the
7:30 a.m. Holy Mass.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
- Copy of Death Certificate;
- Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS
and bank-to-bank payments

DEATH NOTICE

CHARLES C. HOLMES

Peacefully joined our Creator
on October 11, 2005 at the age of 65.

His remains lie in state at the family residence
225 Floraville Subd., Panapaan,
Km. 17 Aguinaldo H-way, Bacoor, Cavite

Cremation will be on Sunday October 16, 2005 at the
Manila Memorial Park Crematorium
Sucat Road, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

EMMAN NOEL IBANA ANDRADE

Who peacefully joined his Creator on the 8th of October at the age of 47.
Pre-deceased by his father Pedro and survived by his mother Pilar, his wife Nonie; daughters Tracy, Joan & Sheena; brothers & sisters Alven, Clare, Perry, Oween, Mabel, Peter & Alex; brothers & sister-in-laws as well as nephews and nieces. They and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
His remains lie in state at Mabini College Chapel in Daet, Camarines Norte.
Interment will be on October 13, 2005.

THE CONGREGATION OF THE
IMMACULAGE HEART OF MARY (CICM)

requests your prayers for

REV. FR. MARCEL CAERS, CICM

born in Turnhout, Antwerpen, Belgium on March 12, 1929,
he died in Cordon, Isabela on October 11, 2005,
at the age of 76.

He served as Assistant Priest in Solano and Aritao (Nueva Vizcaya), and
as Parish Priest in Maddela (Quirino Province).
He was Parish Priest of Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya from 2000 until the time of his death.

His remains lie in state at the
- St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Church, Maddela, Quirino Province until October 13
- St. Joseph Parish Church, Diadi, Nueva Vizcaya until October 16

after which his remains will be transferred to
Home Sweet Home Chapel in Baguio City.

Interment will be on October 17, 2005 (Monday), at the CICM Cemetery
after the 3:00 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection at Maryhurst Seminary, Baguio City.

PLEASE PRAY TO THE LORD FOR HIS ETERNAL REPOSE.

DOMINADOR EDAÑO EAMILAO

of Masinloc, Zambales
Peacefully joined our Creator on 12:00 noon
October 10, 2005 at the age of 90.

His loving wife, **Leticia**, children **Emma** & **Honorio Edaño**, **Oscar** & **Teresa Jose**, **Roberto** & **Annabelle Velez**, **Carolina** & **Danilo Llamas**, **Melchor** & **Sylvia Marcelo**, **Leah** & **Victor Gamboa**, **Dominador, Jr.** & **Ludivina Dizon**, **Jane**, and **Titus** and **Gloria Ermita**, grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers **Ernesto** (†), **Marcos** (†), sisters **Rosita** (†), **Juanita**, **Sr. Ma. Soledad (Emerita)** (†), relatives and friends, request the pious readers to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at Esperanza cor. Olondriz Streets, South Poblacion, Masinloc, Zambales.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 16, 2005, at the Masinloc Catholic Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the San Andres Parish, Masinloc, Zambales.

CLASSIFIEDS

PNOC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Bldg. 5, 2nd Floor Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5289

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

	Approved Budget
One unit 500 KW Diesel-Driven Generator Set under PR no. OS-519505	PhP 3,465,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Alejandro V. Andres starting Oct. 06, 2005 from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on Oct. 20, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Purchasing and Traffic Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Office Wall Clock Time) of Nov. 03, 2005.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman – Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI--Oct. 13, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM
Diliman, Quezon City

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

Sealed quotations will be received by the System Bids and Awards Committee, University of the Philippines System, Quezon Hall, Diliman, Quezon City, not later than 3:00 p.m on October 26, 2005 at the System Supply and Property Management Office (SPMO-SYS) for the supply and installation of the following:

One year subscription on website Current Contents Search, particularly on life science, clinical medicine, agriculture, biology and environmental sciences, engineering, computing & technology; physical, chemical and earth sciences; social and behavioral sciences; and arts and humanities.

The Committee will use the quotations in rationalizing the subscription cost for the above internet access. For more details, please contact Eduardo G. Sabat, Telefax No. 926-4919, email address: egsabat@up.edu.ph.

The System Bids and Awards Committee will also consider quotations from foreign dealers subject to the existing trade relation policies.

(Sgd.) CYNTHIA GRACE C. GREGORIO
OIC, OVP for Administration

(PDI - Oct. 13, 2005)

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JOB Market

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION
Makati City

ESTRELLA MANILA RAFAEL,
Petitioner,
- versus - SSC CASE NO. 4-15880-05
ZILAH I. RAFAEL,
CARMELITA P. VIL,
Respondents,

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM,
Intervenor,
x---x

SUMMONS

TO : CARMELITA P. VIL

GREETINGS:

You are hereby required to file within fifteen (15) days from the date of publication of this Summons with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission, 12th Floor, SSS Makati Building, 6782 Ayala Avenue corner Rufino Street, Makati City, your answer to the petition filed by Estrella Manila Rafael for entitlement to the benefit accruing from the death of SSS member Nilo Mendoza Rafael.

You are further required to serve a copy of your answer upon the Petitioner with address located at 409 C. Pampanga Street, Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila City, and upon the SSS thru the Senior Vice President, Legal and Collection, SSS, Quezon City.

If you fail to answer within the time prescribed above, the Hearing Commissioner, may upon motion of the petitioner or motu-proprio, declare you in default and shall forthwith proceed to receive the petitioner's evidence ex-parte and thereafter recommend to the Commission either the granting or denial of the petition as the evidence may warrant.

SO ORDERED.

Makati City, Philippines, October 7, 2005.

SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION

(PDI - Oct. 13, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

The assets, consisting of a parcel of land with an area of 425 sq.m., including improvements thereon formerly belonging to Prime White Cement Corporation, are being offered for sale on an "as-is, where-is" basis, located at No. 95 East Maya Drive, Philam Homes Subdivision, Quezon City.

Asset	Indicative Price
Land and Improvements	P 7,747,000

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders on November 8, 2005 at 3:00 p.m., at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

In the event this bidding fails, PMO reserves the right to accept proposals submitted for the above asset.

Interested parties may request for a duly authenticated sale documents for a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

For more information, please call Ms. Melinda B. Cortez of the Marketing Department at telephone numbers 892-2145 or 818-4733.

(PDI-Oct. 13, 14 & 15, 2005)

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Schedule I
Construction of Hazardous Waste Shelter Including Relocation of Stockfield, Tower Parts and Line Hardwares at SO Hermosa Warehouse, Hermosa, Bataan

Schedule II
Rehabilitation of Mexico RF and Construction of Shade at ITASD Workshop and Water Treatment Facility Shelter

[Reference No.: PB2050720-LE0080]

1. The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the CY2005 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of P457,979.82 and P1,837,790.73 for Schedules I and II respectively being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the above requirement. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. TransCo now calls for the submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) form potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for Schedule I - Construction of Hazardous Waste Shelter Including Relocation of Stockfield, Tower Parts and Line Hardwares at SO Hermosa Warehouse, Hermosa, Bataan and Schedules II - Rehabilitation of Mexico RF and Construction of Shade at ITASD Workshop and Water Treatment/Demineralizer Facility Shelter. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract (at least Registered as "Small A", Category "Trade" for Schedule I and Registered as "Small B", Category "C & D" for Schedule II), have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents Interested bidders must submit their LOI's from October 13, 2005 to October 21, 2005 at the address below and secure the Eligibility Documents there from upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of ONE THOUSAND pesos (P1,000.00). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents. October 24, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. at the address below. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.
3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at the Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City on or before 2:00 p.m. of October 24, 2005.
5. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on October 28, 2005 to November 18, 2005.
6. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of TWO THOUSAND pesos (P2,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative from October 28, 2005 to November 18, 2005.
7. TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on 10:00 a.m. of November 07, 2005 at the following address, Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City.
8. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. of November 21, 2005. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following form:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) or at least P4,579.80 and P18,377.91 for Schedules I and II respectively
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2%) or at least P6,869.70 and P27,566.86 for Schedules I and II respectively
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%) or at least P11,449.50 and P45,944.77 for Schedules I and II respectively
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%) or at least P457,979.82 and P1,837,790.73 for Schedules I and II respectively

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on 10:00 a.m. of November 21, 2005 at the Admin Conference Room, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building, Power Center, Quezon Avenue Corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 10:00 a.m. of November 21, 2005.

9. Completion of the Works is required by sixty (60) and ninety (90) calendar days for Schedules I and II respectively from receipt of the approved Purchase Order/contract/notice to proceed.
10. TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)
Materials Management Division (MMD)
Ground Floor, TransCo Main Building,
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road,
Diliman, Quezon City

Tel. No.: (632) 981-2205/981-2241
Email: jzdarilay@transco.ph
eliogronio@transco.ph
Fax No.: (632) 922-8432/921-6753
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 13, 2005)

BUSINESS

200,000 RP garments workers risk losing jobs

Exporters press for trade pact; warn of dangers facing local industry over next 3 years

LOW-COST producers like China are threatening the existence of the local garments industry.

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SOME 200,000 WORKERS, OR ABOUT HALF of the local garments industry workforce, are in danger of losing their jobs over the next three years due to competition with low-cost producers like China, according to an industry group.

Officials of the Confederation of Garment Exporters of the Philippines yesterday said the industry "would die" within the next few years because of the higher cost of labor and other inputs here compared to those in other Asian countries.

According to Ma. Teresita Jocson-Agoncillo, Congep executive director, the industry needs a more secure access to the United States market, which accounts for about 70 percent of the country's export earnings from garments.

Garments exports bring in an average of $2.8 billion yearly, with shipments to the US reaching $1.9 billion.

"We want to work on negotiating a preferential tariff agreement (PTA) with the US, but this requires the involvement of our government," Agoncillo said.

She said the US currently levies between 3 percent and 32 percent duty on shipments from the Philippines.

"From the current average tariff of 17 percent, we hope to reduce this to zero through a garments industry-specific trade pact with the US," she said.

"A (comprehensive free trade pact) with the US would take time to realize," Agoncillo added. "In the meantime, we need such preferential access before 2008."

Owing to huge volumes of garments coming from China, the world's largest markets—including the US, Canada and Europe—are continuing to impose quotas for Chinese imports until it becomes a member of the World Trade Organization in 2008.

The international Multi-Fiber Agreement, which laid out a global quota system for the garments industry, expired at the end of 2004.

Agoncillo said that the local industry, which represents a total of 400,000 direct jobs and a million indirect jobs, is in jeopardy even with the safeguard measure against Chinese imports.

Agoncillo said there were about 1,100 local garments firms in 2002. But by end-2004, only about 950 are still operating.

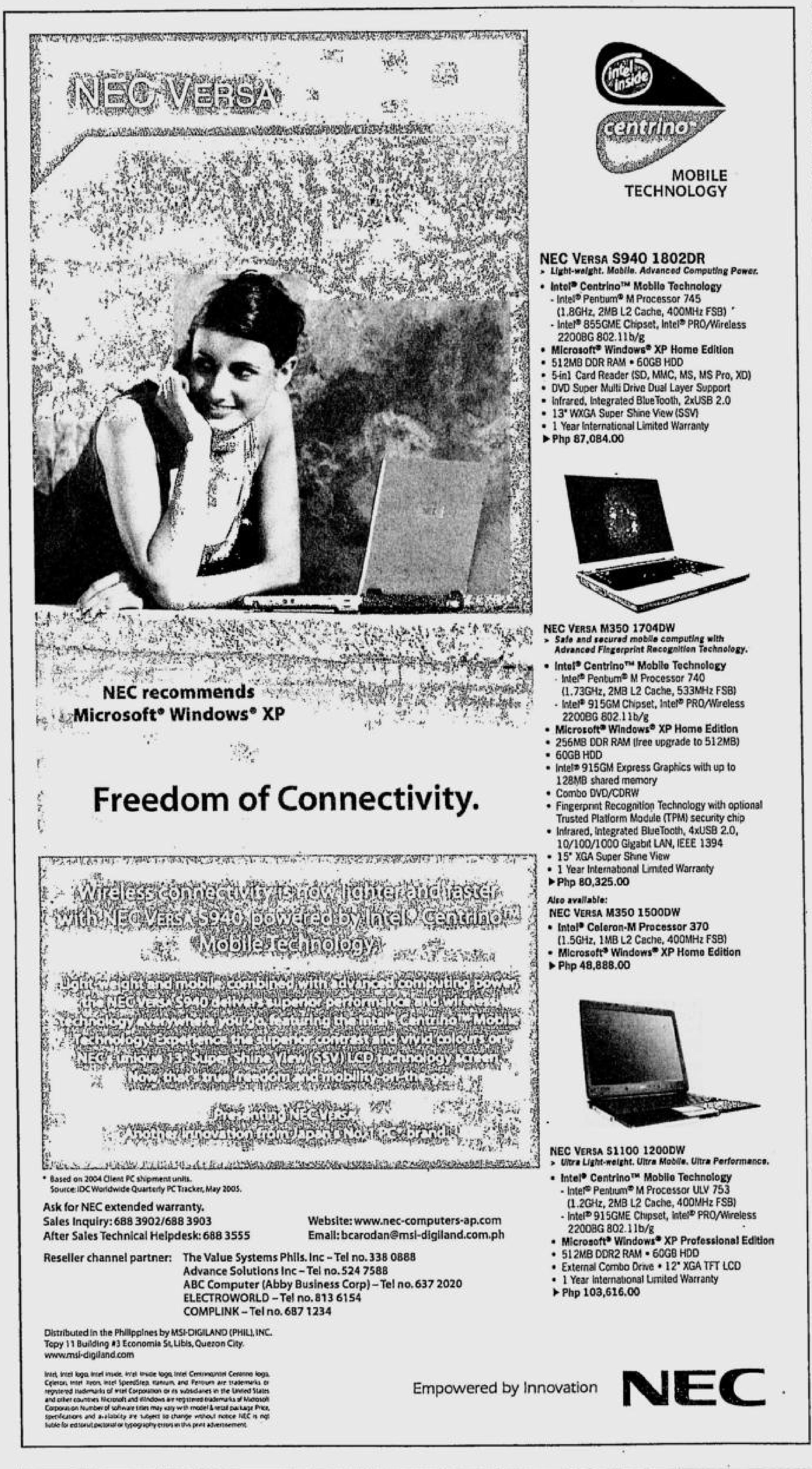
Michael T. Que, Congep director, said that a garments-specific PTA with the US could be likened to the qualified industrial zone (QIZ) scheme that the US had entered into with Israel, Egypt and Syria.

"However, the QIZ is different in that this involves a physical area that enjoys preferential trade treatment," Que explained. "We are after preferential tariffs."

He said a PTA with the US could result in an inflow of investments of some $550 million in the long-term.

According to Congep estimates, a more immediate effect of such a pact would be a 20-percent increase in export earnings from the US market to about $2.3 billion yearly.

"A PTA could also mean 100,000 new direct jobs yearly," Agoncillo said.



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Empowered by Innovation NEC

Traders urged to secure 'Manila Mango' brand

THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY Office yesterday urged local producers to secure the right to the exclusive use of the brand name "Manila," which Mexican competitors are using to flood the lucrative American market.

IPO director general Adrian S. Cristobal Jr. said in an interview that, based on inquiries with Mexican authorities, the trademark was not registered in that country.

"What the local growers need is to file for a community of collective trademark so that they can claim exclusive rights for the name," Cristobal said.

Last May, the Department of Trade and Industry ordered the probe of Mexican-produced mangoes that were being sold under the name "Manila." According to officials, local exporters are losing out on market opportunities.

Quoting a report from the office of Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., who heads the Senate committee on agriculture, then Secretary Juan B. Santos said Mexican producers' use of the Manila brand was misleading as their mangoes are actually grown in Veracruz.

The report went on to say that, "while Mexico acknowledges that seedlings of its 'Manila' mangoes originally came from the Philippines during they colonial period by way of the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade, it must accord (the Philippines) due courtesy by awarding us the rightful use of the label."

The senator said Mexico's Manila mangoes were dominating the United States market. He also said local mangoes carried the "Philippine Super Mangoes" brand when the local produce reentered the US market in 2002.

The Philippines is the the fifth largest mango producer in the world, with 850,000 metric tons a year and the sixth largest exporter with 9-percent of the global market.

In a related matter, Cristobal said the IPO was working with the Philippine Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry to push for an amendment to the country's patent laws.

PCPI president Michael Francis A. dela Cruz said drug firms wanted to be able to develop generic medicines even before a patent lapses.

Patents are meant to encourage research on, and development of, new products by granting a temporary monopoly to investors for 20 years.

"If we are allowed to make certain medicines only after the patent has lapsed, it would take at least three years before we could make our own product," Dela Cruz said. "In effect, the patent is extended by three years." *Ronnel W. Domingo*

MAGSAYSAY NAMED 2005 BEST MANNING COMPANY IN ASIA PACIFIC

Magsaysay Maritime Corporation was named 2005 Best Manning Company in Asia Pacific during the recent Lloyd's List Maritime Asia Awards Night held in Singapore. Magsaysay was one of the top four nominees for the award which included three Hong Kong-based companies. Magsaysay Institute of Shipping, Magsaysay's in-house training campus for future officers' training and upgrading courses, was also one of the three finalists in the Best in Youth Development category.

Now on its 7th year, the awards are given away in thirteen categories by Asia's biggest shipping magazine, Lloyds' List Maritime Asia. LLMA readers, who are members of the international maritime industry, nominate the companies who they believe deserve the recognition. A panel of judges decides the winners from the top three nominees per category. Every year, the Awards Night attracts more than 500 people, the cream of Asia's shipping elite.

Magsaysay has been in shipping since 1948 and ventured into the crewing of ships in the 70's. Since then, it has been filling the needs of world-class companies in the maritime and cruise industries for high quality skilled personnel. Today, it has over 25,000 officers, crew and cruise personnel in its pool.

"The award upholds Magsaysay's belief in training and caring for people," said Doris Ho, president of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation. "Magsaysay owes its success to its core philosophy of developing people and providing a caring environment for seafarers and their families."

Magsaysay Training Center was established as soon as Magsaysay started its crewing operations. In 1979, it established an office called the Family Center to provide a venue for continued interaction and communication between the families, the company and the crew.

Magsaysay has continued to allocate a percentage of its revenues to the training of its people. In 1993, in partnership with Mitsui OSK Lines of Japan and Fairmont Shipping, Ltd. of Hong Kong and Canada, Magsaysay opened a big campus in Dasmarinas, Cavite, the Magsaysay Institute of Shipping (MIS), to provide a comprehensive in-house upgrading training program for the seafarers of the partners and their principals. MIS has state-of-the-art facilities for deck and engine officers' training as well as for galley, food and beverage, and housekeeping training of cruise and hospitality personnel. Its centerpiece program is a three-month, live-in training for cadets called Officers' Candidate Course. All courses in the institute are provided free-of-charge.

"Our ultimate measure of success is what happens to our people after they have worked for us, either on the ships or in the office. Did they have successful careers? Are they able to build their own homes and send their children to college? Are they able to save enough for a comfortable retirement? We believe this is every Filipino's dream. In Magsaysay, we have instituted a savings culture to make sure our employees and seafarers save up for their future," says Ms. Ho.

MaritimeAsia
AWARDS 2005 SINGAPORE

Receiving the award with Magsaysay executives and colleagues are president/CEO Doris Magsaysay Ho (5th from left), COO Marlon R. Roño (4th from left), chairman Eduardo U. Manese (6th from left), CFO Fernando S. Lopez (7th from left), and NMC COO Roberto A. Umali (extreme right).

MORE on the origins of kare-kare /C4

LIFESTYLE

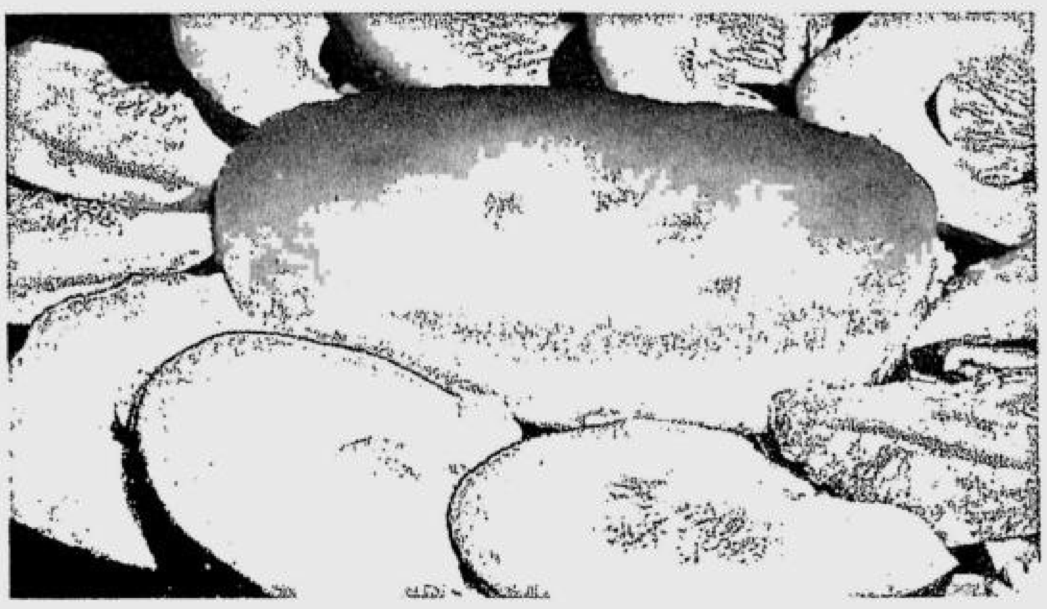
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Culinary invention becomes a family tradition

By Elizabeth B. Bio

The Kalabasa Rice Custard was created as a school project of Lola Peding's granddaughter



LOW-COST Squash Rice Custard

SQUASH, LOCALLY KNOWN as *kalabasa*, is an annual plant of the genus cucurbita in the gourd family cucurbitaceae. It has a tough outer skin and can be stored at moderate temperatures.

PDI FAMILY RECIPES CONTEST

I was left in the care of my paternal grandmother and an aunt who was an old maid. I stayed there with my cousins and we were all sent to school by our Lola Peding. Since she stood as head of the family who supported all of us, we were really so *matipid*. In fact, our leftover rice was always made into delightful desserts by our Lola.

The recipe that I will share was taught by my beloved Lola when I was in fourth grade.

My teacher asked us to present to the class any invented recipe. So I asked my Lola to help and we came up with this dessert. Our teacher was so impressed by our resourcefulness, creativity and innovativeness that my group was cited first in our class.

Lola Peding died after I graduated from sixth grade but her memory remained with us. Mama Tending, my late aunt, never failed to remind us not to waste leftover food.

I used to cook this dessert but now my eldest daughter, aged 17, prepares this dish for us. My daughter may have inherited my Lola's culinary skill because she has reinvented the recipe, adding other flavoring.

Squash Rice Custard

Ingredients:

1 c mashed squash
2 c rice porridge
1 c coco cream
1 small tin condensed milk
4 pcs medium-sized eggs
¼ c honey
1 tbsp vanilla
1 c refined sugar
½ c brown sugar + ¼ c water
½ c toasted pounded pili nut

Procedure:

1. Caramelize ½ c brown sugar, ¼ c honey and add ¼ c water.
2. Cook until thick.
3. Pour the syrup into molders.
4. In a bowl, break eggs and beat with a fork.
5. Add the rest of the ingredients except the pili nut.
6. Mix until well blended.
7. Pour the mixture over the syrup.
8. Steam for 10-20 minutes.
9. When done, serve on a platter garnished with toasted pili nut.

(Editor's Note: Winner should claim her prize from Hazel Soriaga of the PDI Marketing Dept. at PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City.)

Win SM Supermarket gift checks

LIFESTYLE IS LOOKING for recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients.

Send us your family recipes and, if your entry is chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served. Include a photo and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PDI Family Recipes Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263. Or e-mail to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph**. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. Winners may claim their prizes from the PDI marketing office.

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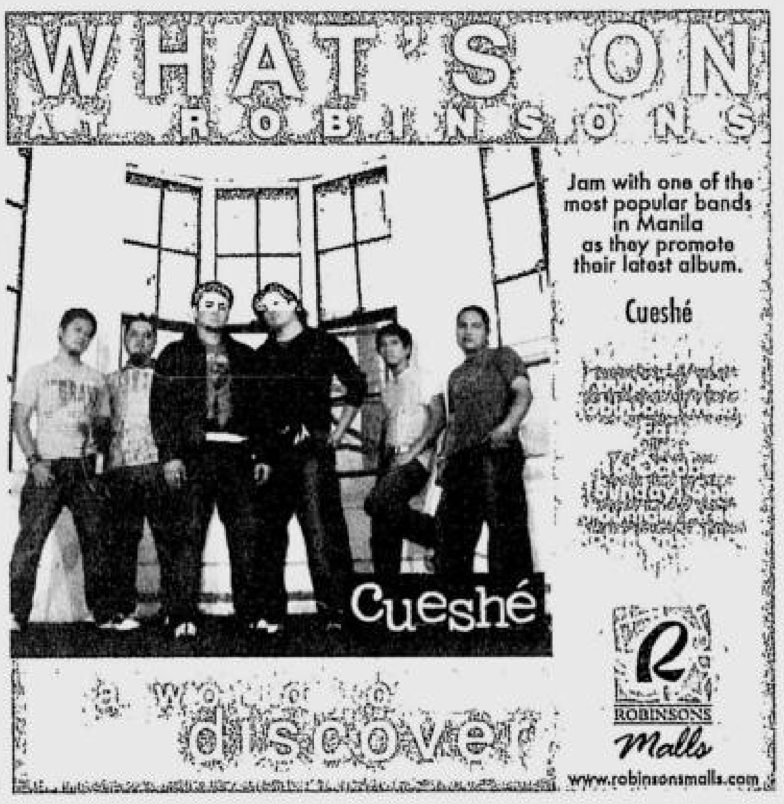

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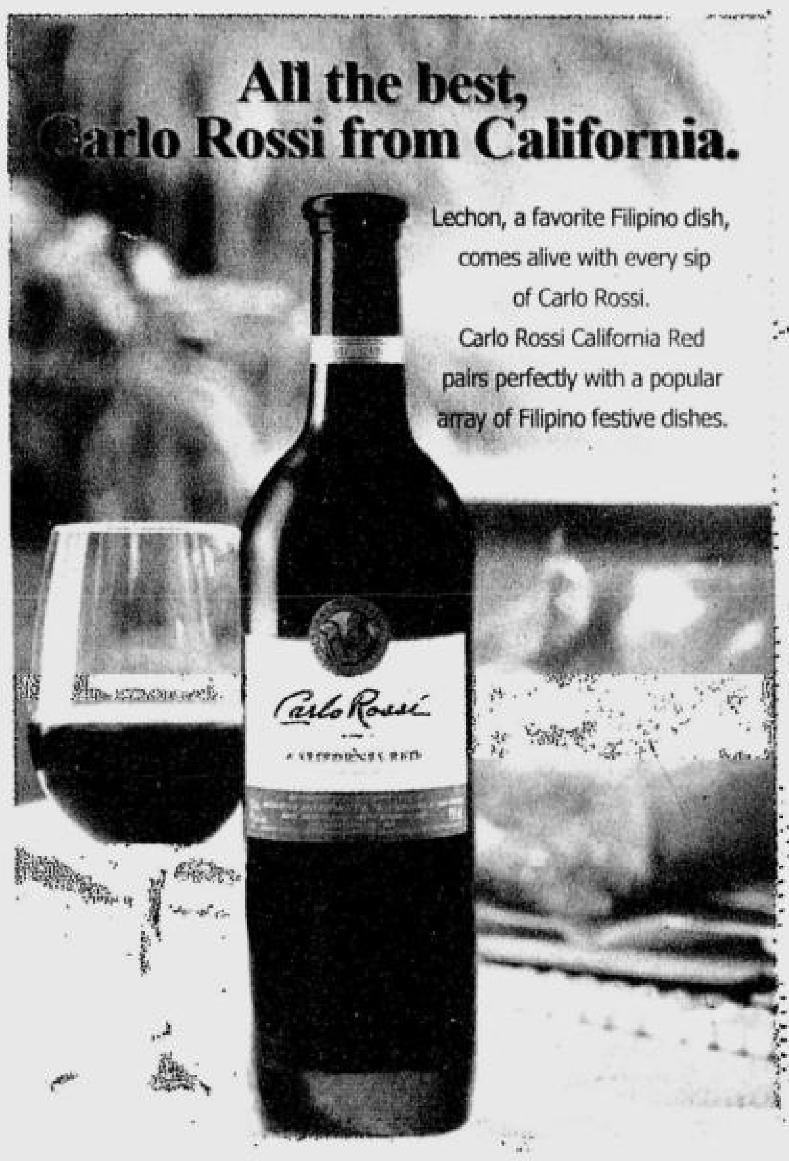

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Stylizing the classics

C2 aims to make Pinoy dishes look more appetizing while retaining their original flavors

By Belle V. Bondoc

C2 CLASSIC CUISINE, WHICH IS turning a year old this month, serves authentic-tasting Filipino dishes presented in less traditional ways.

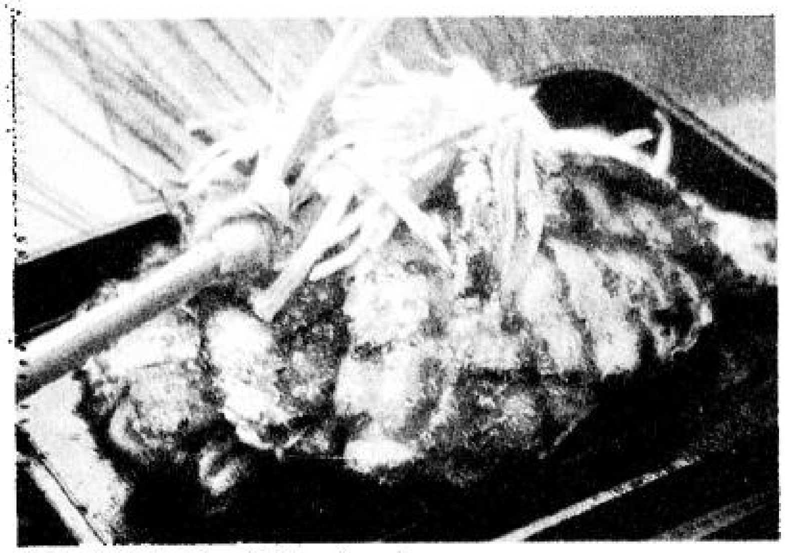
The 98-seat restaurant at the 6/L Cineplex, Shangri-La Mall is into stylized Filipino cooking.

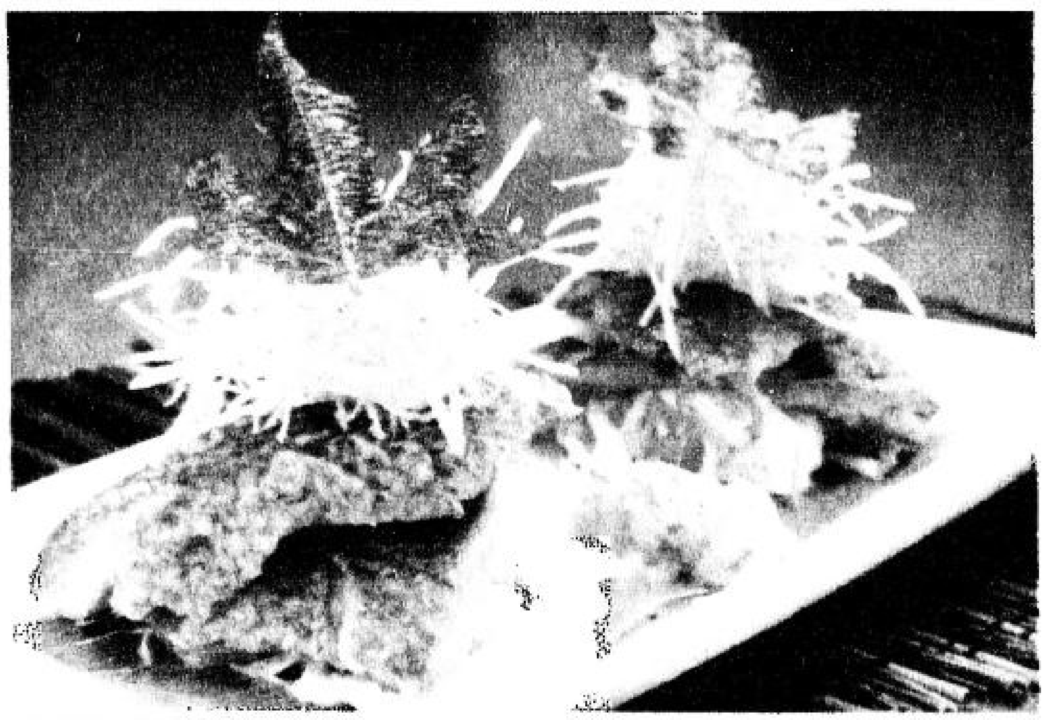
"Stylized because we make ordinary dishes look more appetizing while retaining their original flavors," says chef consultant Annali Mariano, a graduate of home economics from the University of the Philippines in Diliman and a chef-instructor at the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA).

"When you speak of Filipino cuisine, presentation-wise it is dull, so what we're trying to do is to make each dish more appealing even to the most discriminating palate," she says.

Mariano and chef Menoy Gimenez oversee the entire kitchen operation of C2, which is part of the Cravings Group of Companies.

Mariano's "stylization" produced the Seared Tilapia in Coconut Emulsion that earned C2 a gold award in the "Market Basket" category in 2004's Chefs on Parade competition.


SIZZLING Boneless Chicken Inasal


SEARED Tilapia in Coconut Emulsion

"This crisp *tilapia* in white creamy coco sauce is actually a version of *guinataang tilapia*," says the 27-year-old chef. "We just added some flavor to make it more attractive."

The dish was made distinctive by its pineapple salsa dip, a mint-green concoction of fresh pineapple, special herbs and cilantro.

Classics

The menu is a collection of classic Filipino dishes. A bestseller is Kare-kareng Buntot at Tuwalya. "If you look at old recipe books, *kare-kare* is really oxtail and tripe," explains Mariano.

"People would think that oxtail is *mataba*, but it gives a lot of flavor to the dish," says Mariano. Specially cooked *bagoong* adds to its unique flavor. According to Mariano, vegetables are stewed in *bagoong* separately to keep their natural flavor.

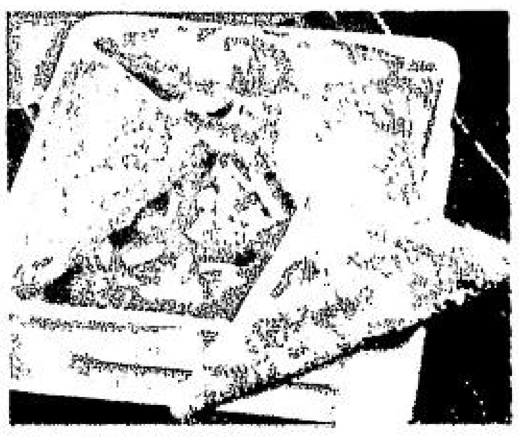
The bestseller Sizzling Boneless Chicken Inasal, a famous Bacolod specialty, is half-chicken infused with lemongrass and ginger.

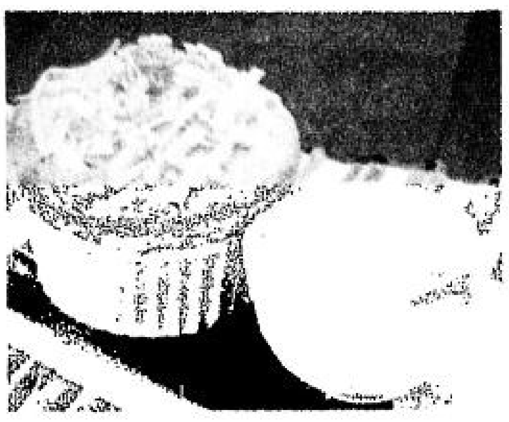
Another must-try is the classic Chicken Adobo with its tamarind sauce.

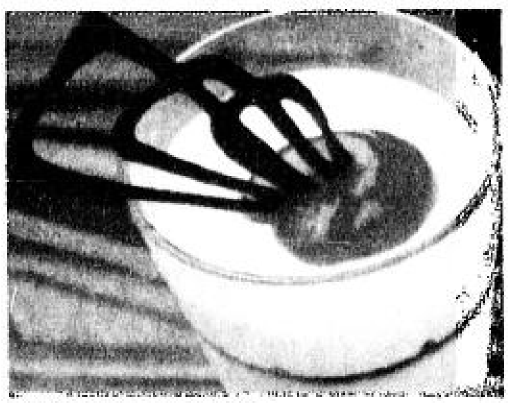
Meat, seafood and vegetable lovers may choose from a sizable menu. Rice dishes are also available, including Dilis Garlic Rice, which is one of Mariano's favorites.

Sweets

The desserts are to die for; the restaurant's Bibingka Soufflé, in fact, won in the "Plated Desserts" category. It's a blend of coconut custard, salted egg, toasted coconut and *quezo de bola*.


KALDERETANG Pastel


BIBINGKA Soufflé


PASTILLAS Pannacotta

The *bibingka* is light and fluffy. "It's not the usual *bibingka na sobrang bigat sa tiyan*," says Mariano. Dessert should be light, according to her, as diners don't like to leave the table with a heavy stomach.

Also popular are Pastillas Pannacotta, a perfect blend of light cream custard with creamy *pastillas* morsels, and the Tablea Tiramisu, *tsokolate*-soaked lady fingers topped with light cheesecake filling.

"Yuppies are more adventurous when it comes to desserts. They want something different while the older crowd order the traditional *leche flan* or *halo-halo*," says Mariano.

The desserts are usually enjoyed with Kapeng Barako ng Batangas, blend coffee with a splash of condensed milk, or *salabat* soda.

This month Mariano and her team will participate in the Australian Food Expo in Melbourne and Sydney, Australia, to promote Philippine cuisine globally. With four C2 employees and students from CCA, the team will feed 120 people lunch and dinner.

To be featured are C2's famous signature dishes like the Seared Tilapia, the Sinigang na Salmon and, for dessert, Pastillas Pannacotta.

Prices are quite reasonable while servings are really generous. Diners vary depending on time and day. Lunch on weekdays draw the business crowd. On weekends, C2 becomes a venue for family gatherings. Many people who attend Sunday Mass at the mall have a meal at C2.

C2 also offers *merienda*, 2-6 p.m. and catering services within Metro Manila. Call 6367509/1510.

E-mail the author at bbondoc@inquirer.com.ph

Time for tea

FILIPINOS, WHO HAVE not been known to enjoy tea, are discovering tea as they gear toward a healthier and more progressive way of life.

A recent campaign from Lipton Tea, the world's and Philippine's largest tea brand, dubbed "Tea Can Do That," pushes tea as a modern beverage that may do wonders to the body, mind, heart and soul as well. The campaign shares the many things tea can do—from the miraculous (like saving you from cancer and heart attack) to the mundane (like saving you from bad breath).

The educational campaign by Lipton also introduces to the public the creative ways to enjoy a cup of tea. Tea with milk or honey? Or perhaps a dash of fruit juice? How about lemon iced tea made from teabags? Enjoy the following recipes from Lipton. For a full-bodied and robust flavor, steep the teabag for five minutes. For a mild flavor, steep the teabag for about two minutes.

Fruit Tea

1 pc Lipton Yellow Label Teabag

2 tbsp grape juice

2 tbsp apple juice

½ tsp mint syrup

240 ml hot water (approx. 1 c)

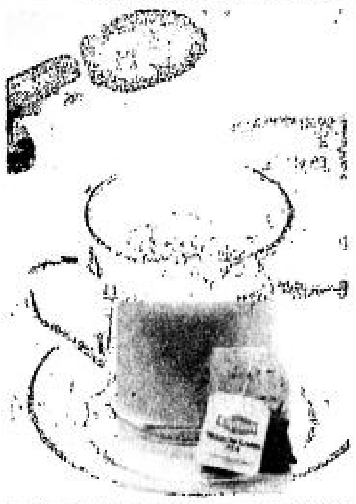
Steep one Lipton Yellow Label Teabag in approx. 1 c of hot water for 3-5 minutes.

Stir in 2 tbsp grape juice.

Add ½ tsp sugar syrup.

Add 2 tbsp apple juice.

Add a grapefruit, apple wedges, and mint leaves for garnish



Milk Tea

3 pcs Lipton Yellow Label Teabags

200 ml hot water (approx. 1 c)

1 tbsp honey

2 tbsp fresh milk

Cinnamon powder or vanilla extract

Steep three Lipton Yellow Label Teabags in approx. 1 c of hot water for 3-5 minutes.

Stir in 1 tbsp honey.

Add 2 tbsp fresh milk.

For garnish, sprinkle cinnamon powder or vanilla extract.

Honey Tea

1 pc Lipton Yellow Label Teabag

240 ml hot water (approx. 1 c)

2 tbsp honey

1 tbsp lemon juice or 2 tbsp cranberry juice (optional)

1 tsp grenadine (optional)

Steep one Lipton Yellow Label Teabag in approx. 1 c of hot water for three to five minutes.

Add 1 tbsp honey.

Add 2 tbsp cranberry juice.

Add grenadine for color.

Cold Brew Lemon Tea

1 pc Lipton Yellow Label Teabag

240 ml hot water (approx. 1 c)

2 tbsp honey

1 tbsp lemon juice, cup of ice

Steep one Lipton Yellow Label Teabag in approx. 1 c of hot water for 3-5 minutes.

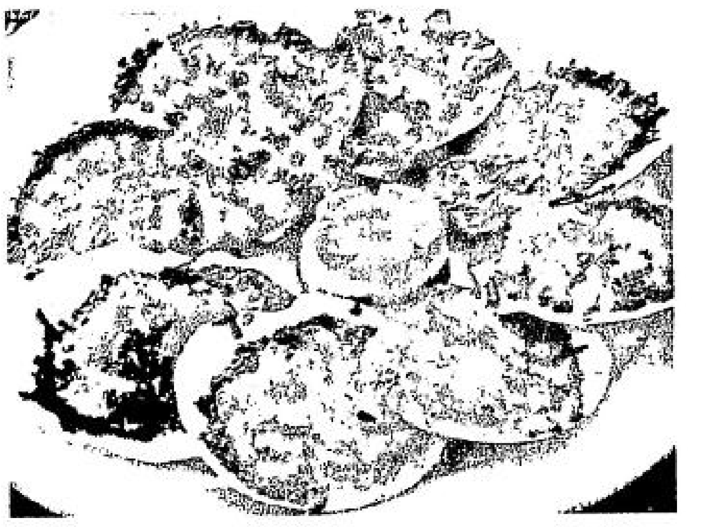
Add 2 tbsp honey.

Add 1 tbsp lemon juice.

Pour the ice into glass.

To garnish, add lemon wedges and mint leaves.

GERRY'S Grill has added these new dishes to its menu: Tahong a la Pobre, mussels tossed in garlic and oil; Adobong Puso Rice, Baked Scallops topped with garlic and melted cheese; Steamed Plapla served with garlic and butter sauce, topped with fresh leeks; Bagnet, crispy fried pork belly served with fresh onions and tomato salad, fish *bagoong* rice on the side. Three kinds of rice are also offered—Bagoong Rice, Crab Rice and Veggie Rice. Gerry's Grill has branches in Tomas Morato, Bicutan, Alabang, Jupiter, Subic, Glorietta, Pampanga, Libis, Baguio, Malate, Lucena, Cebu, Bluewave, Greenhills, Batangas, Marikina and Insular Life Building.



They're cooking your goose

DINING OUT

EDSA Shangri-La's Summer Palace offers Braised Poached Chicken with Dried Scallops, Roasted Goose served with plum and hoi sin sauce, Crispy Pigeon in honey sauce and Deep-Fried Duck with minced taro until Oct. 26. At Senju, salmon specialties are featured until Oct. 31. Garden Café presents various mango masterpieces in its lunch and dinner buffets until Oct. 31. Call 6347373/6338888.

INTERCONTINENTAL Manila's Café Jeepney presents The Best of Portugal buffet until Oct. 19. Diners can sample Small Hot Meat Pies, Roast Suckling Pig Bairada Style, Prawn with Garlic and Olive Oil, Pork Loin stuffed with black prunes, Clams with Coriander, Meat Kebab Madeira Style, Tuna Steaks in Onion Sauce, Cod with Eggs and Fried Potatoes, Alentajo Pudding, Custard Tartlets and Almond Cake with Pumpkin Compote. Call 8159711.

HYATT Regency Manila's Café Al Fresco features The Spanish Buffet until Oct. 23. Guests will have their fill of Paella Valenciana, Spanish tapas, Lengua Estofado, Spanish desserts and wines. Call 8331234.

HERITAGE Hotel Manila's Restaurant Riviera presents the Heritage Grand Buffet for lunch and dinner until Oct. 31. Featured are the flavors of North Africa, Morocco, Greece, Lebanon, Italy, France and Spain. At the Lobby Lounge, bar chow specialties are offered until Oct. 31. Call 8548888.

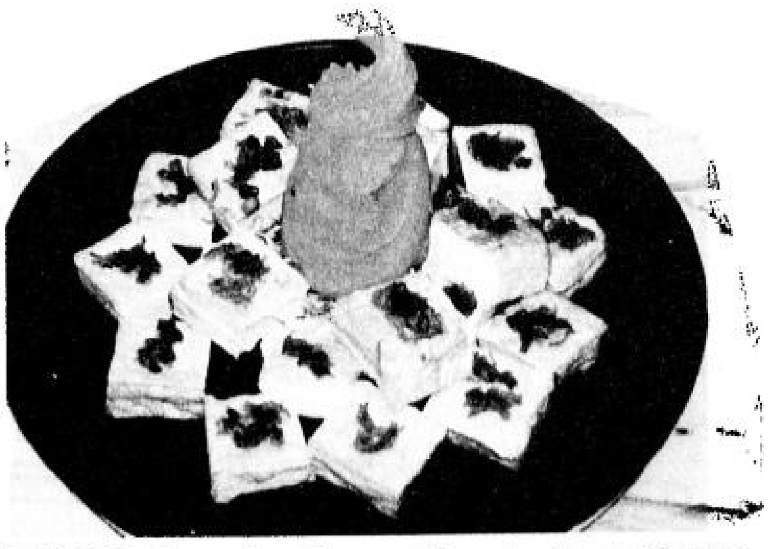
DISCOVERY Suites' Café Berrio showcases the flavors of Spain like Baked Mussels with Lemon Butter, Ensalada de Berros con Vinagreta de Anchoas, Tagaytay Organic Greens and Watercress Salad, US Angus Oxtail Stew, Pan Roasted Snapper Fillet in White Wine and Almond Sauce, and Boneless Organic Chicken Braised in Red Wine. Serendipity Lounge celebrates Oktoberfest with a sausage platter menu. Call 6352222/6838222.

DUSIT Hotel Nikko's Thien Duong Vietnamese Restaurant offers Braised Chicken in White Rice Sauce, Carrot and Tomatoes; Steamed Jumbo Prawns with Beer; Rabbit Stew in Red Wine Sauce; Steamed Lapu-Lapu Fillet Fish with Red Wine Sauce; Marinated Grilled Sirloin Steak in Red Wine Sauce and Assorted Vegetables. These dishes are available for lunch and dinner on Oct. 15-Nov. 30. Call 8673333.

CROWNE Plaza Galleria Manila's Xin Tian Di restaurant features Dim Sum All You Want promo every Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Offered are deep-fried taro vegetable puffs, spring rolls, spicy shrimps and sweet egg custard baked in a flaky crust. Call 6337222.

CHILI'S features Triple Play Classic, Classic Nachos, Wings Over Buffalo, Grilled Baby Back Ribs, Mushroom Jack Fajitas and Flame-Grilled Rib Eye Steak. Chili's has outlets in Makati, Greenhills and Tomas Morato, QC.

WEST LAKE Restaurant introduces its Power Lunches, which feature HK Soyed Tofu Rice, Special Kikiam Rice, Hainan Chicken Rice Pork Spareribs in Black Bean Sauce Rice, Stuffed Shrimps Rice, Roast Pork (Asado) Rice, Mapo Tofu Rice in Pot, Fish Fillet with Tofu in Black Bean Sauce Rice, Sweet and Sour Pork Rice, Braised Beef Brisket Rice and Pan Grilled Pork Chop Rice. West Lake is located at Fuente Circle, Eastwood City Walk, Libis, QC, and Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.



DAVID'S Tea House offers 40-percent discount on its new dishes on Oct. 28-Nov. 15. The dishes include Lobster Cream Soup, Lobster Noodle with Cream Cheese, Lobster Noodle with Superior Soy Sauce, Sautéed Lobster with Butter and Cheese, David's Braised Pata Tim, Sautéed Beefloin Cubes in Honey Black Pepper Sauce and Sauteed Lamb Chops in Lemon Grass. David's Tea House is located in M.H. del Pilar St., Malate; Greenbelt 1, Makati; Sucat, Parañaque; Tomas Mapua St., Sta. Cruz; SM Pampanga, and SM Baguio.

It is Consumer Awareness Month

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH devoted to reminding us consumers of our rights.

For those who may not know it yet, there are eight specific consumer rights recognized and protected by the Consumer Act of the Philippines, or Republic Act Number 7394.

Here they are, as defined in the Act:

Right to basic needs. The right guarantees survival, adequate food, clothing, shelter, health care, education and sanitation.

Right to safety. The right to be protected against the marketing of goods or the provision of services that are hazardous to health and life.

Right to information. The right to be protected against dishonest or misleading advertising or labeling and the right to be given the facts and information needed to make an informed choice.

Right to choose. The right to choose products at competitive prices with an assurance of satisfactory quality.

Right to representation. The right to express consumer interests in the making and execution of government policies.

Right to redress. The right to be compensated for misrepresentation, shoddy goods or unsatisfactory services.

Right to consumer education. The right to acquire the knowledge and skill necessary to be an informed consumer.

Right to healthy environment. The right to live and work in an environment which is neither threatening nor dangerous and which permits a life of dignity and well-being.

Violations of these rights can be brought by consumers to the attention of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) although right now, the department, as we found out, is already full to the rafters with consumer complaints.

Be that as it may, the DTI information desk will entertain inquiries on how to file consumer complaints. Call 8977384 or write to the Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection at Trade and Industry Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City.

Start them young

"Our thrust is to strengthen consumer welfare awareness among the young, similar to what authorities in Japan have done," explained Jesus L. Motoomull, director of the Bureau of Product Standards (BPS), an agency of the DTI.

In Japan, he said, young consumers were remarkably vigilant about quality, safety and pricing of products.

"We're getting there," he claimed. He noted that Filipino students were always fascinated by the different quality testing procedures for products at the test laboratory of the BPS. Laboratory tests are designed to ensure that products meet quality and safety standards.

We interviewed Motoomull at BPS where we were one of the judges at the second on-the-spot essay writing contest for high school students. The contest this year has for its theme "A Safer Home with Standards." And, after reading all 21 entries, we can say that young Filipino consumers are becoming aware of their right to quality products.

The writing competition is part of the National Standards Week activities, one of the events of the consumer month observance.

Interesting side events

There are daily activities scheduled during the consumer month. These include workshops, conferences and informative talks on consumer concerns. What should be of interest to us consumers are lectures on product standards, energy conservation, warranties, understanding Manila Electric Company (Meralco) bills, text scam, counterfeit detection, consumer complaints filing, expanded senior citizens' act, direct selling and multilevel marketing, and more.

Also scheduled is the destruction of confiscated products or items that do not meet quality and safety standards. Some of these items are seatbelts, wiring devices, LPG cylinders, automotive batteries, etc.

The 5th Consumer Trade Fair is ongoing until Oct. 16 at Megatrade Hall 2 in SM Megamall.

For the complete schedule of events, call the BPS promotion and media relations office at 7514740, or visit the DTI website at www.bps.dti.gov.ph.

Giant fountain launches choco festival

THE RED RIBBON BAKESHOP WILL unveil a giant chocolate fountain on Oct. 15 at the Padre Faura Atrium of Robinsons Place in Ermita, Manila.

The event will signal the start of the bakeshop's month-long Chocolate Festival. The chocolate fountain will be at Robinsons until Oct. 16.

With a height of 10 feet, the fountain will be the tallest chocolate structure ever seen in the Philippines. Chocolate lovers can get rich, warm and melted chocolate flowing over the multitiered fountain.

Other activities have also been lined up like a mime show, balloon sculpting and face painting.

As part of the event, new premium chocolate cakes and truffles were specially created and will be available in selected Red Ribbon stores for a limited time only.

These include Choco Orange Truffle Cake, Chocolate Mango Mousse, Twin Chocolate Mousse, Chocolate Layer Cake, Dark Chocolate Truffle, and White Chocolate Truffle.

The two-day affair is in partnership with The Embassy of Chocolate, provider of the dark chocolate to be used in the giant chocolate fountain, and Robinsons Place Manila.

For a sampling of Red Ribbon Bakeshop's premium chocolate creations, visit branches at Robinsons Ermita, Binondo, Glorietta, Retiro, Jupiter, Ayala Parksquare II, Amber-Shaw Boulevard, SM Southmall, Festival Mall, Alabang Town Center, Timog-Quezon Avenue, SM North Edsa, Congressional, Commonwealth, SM Fairview, SM Megamall, Robinsons Galleria, Katipunan, Libis and Missouri.

Free cooking lessons

LEARN TO MAKE your own presents this holiday season through San Miguel Purefoods Culinary Center's "Gift from the Kitchen, Gift from the Heart," a free cooking and baking demonstration, 1-4:30 p.m., Oct. 22, at the San Miguel head office cafeteria, 40 San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong (across SM Megamall).

Just bring any three assorted empty wrappers of Magnolia, Purefoods-Hormel, Magnolia Chicken, or Monterey products.

Call 6719876 locals 2771, 402, 404 or 405.

Gifts you can do yourself

LEARN HOMEMADE holiday gifts at the Center for Asian Culinary Studies (CACS). Homemade holiday gifts, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 13; Gifts from the Kitchen, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 14; Chocolate Temptations, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Oct. 15, with chef Adoree Chong-Uy; Twist to Basic Baking, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 17, with pastry chef Hannah Herrera; Homemade Holiday Gifts 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 24; Simple Cakes, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Oct. 25, with pastry chef Ana Baluyot. Fee is P1,000-P1,500 per participant. CACS is at 455 P. Guevarra St., San Juan. Call 7255089 or 726-9326.

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Learn the CACS method and be the Global Chef! Our program is the only school with its own restaurant outlet and its own internship program of 350 hours and Externship or an outside practicum program of 300 hours. It is the only program with the mostly widely used software hospitality system worldwide that gives its graduates the global edge. Enrollment includes 3 sets of uniforms, chef's kit, manual and all the ingredients to be used. NO HIDDEN COSTS!

Classes will start on October 24. Enrollment is ongoing. For inquiries and reservations, call 726-9326 or 725-5089 and look for Marilyn or Glady.

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SET A
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Fried Taro Scallop Pie
Double Luck Shark's Fin Soup
Steamed Suahe / Steamed Prawns with Garlic
Peking duck 1 way
Steamed Lapu-Lapu
Fried Duck Bone
Steamed Crab
Yong Chow Fried Rice/B-day Noodle
Dessert
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P 4,200.00 for 6 pax
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SET C
Chiu Chow Cold Cuts
Stuffed Crab Claw
Dotted Lapu-Lapu Fillet Shark's Fin Soup
Black Mushroom with Shell Meat Abalone
Diced Mango Salad w/ Scallop & Duck
Steamed Lapu-Lapu
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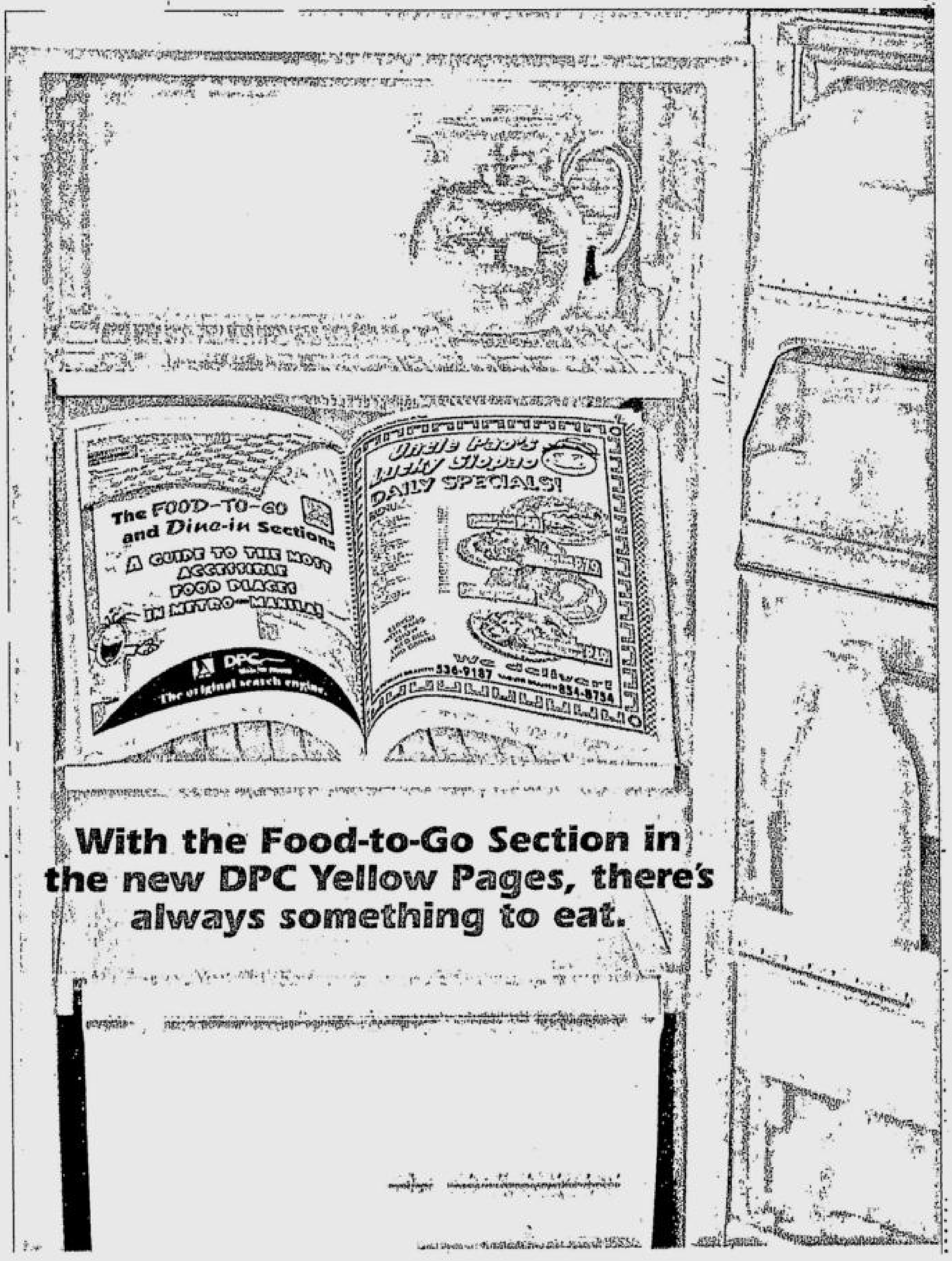
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Now the 2005-2006 PLDT Metro Manila Telephone Directories include a Food-to-Go/Dine-in section—a listing of all the popular restaurants that deliver food right to your doorstep. More than just the establishment's contact number, you can also find their menus in this handy section.

There are also Grid Maps, Zip Codes, Tax Calendars, Philippine Facts and Figures, Conversion and Measurement Tables, Road and Traffic Signs, World in Focus, First Aid tips and how to get an NSO Certificate and NBI Clearance. So you get more than just business names, their telephone numbers and addresses. It's more than Yellow, more than just Pages, making your telephone directory more useful everyday.

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More on the origins of kare-kare

Part two

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

HERE'S THE REST OF DR. Ricky Soler's letter explaining the real origin of our much-beloved kare-kare:

Some word experts do not quite buy that ["curry" derives from the Tamil *kari*], and insist that long before the English even knew about India, the word was already in use by them as reflected by the fact that the first "real" English cookbook was titled "The Forme of Cury." This was commissioned by King Richard II 500 years before the British occupied India! Fascinatingly enough, the word *cury*, meaning "cooking" in Old English, comes from the French word *cuire*, meaning to cook, from which "cuisine" [also] comes.

All that being established, we go back to Cainta and the Sepoys' *kari*. The local community must have quickly become fond of this sauce mixed with beef tripe, ox tail and ox feet and eaten with rice. It is to be expected that it was a spicy *kari* but not so spicy as to need the mediation of coconut milk nor of the usual chutney side dishes to temper a very sharp taste or piquancy.

Whatever the case might have been, soon the spices the Sepoys brought with them from home ran out. The transformation of the dish into kare-kare began, morphing into the present version which, except for onions, garlic and pepper no longer has such spices as chilies, mustard, coriander, etc., which the original Sepoy *kari* must have had.

Too bad neither the Sepoys nor our natives were assiduous enough to look for these oddly-named spices, all of which, including the curry leaf, called *bignay* in Tagalog, are available in the country. Perhaps it was our natural languor which might have infected the Sepoys that prevented the preparation of the kari in its original form, but the blessing from this resulted in the blessed creation of kare-kare.

> 'The version being rather bland in comparison to its precursor, both Sepoys and natives took to spicing up the new meal with bagoong alamang'

Substitutes

To retain some of the saffron color of the original *kari*, annatto seeds (achiote) which are more common than our native turmeric (*dilao*) was substituted for the imported turmeric, and to thicken the mixture, ground roasted rice or peanuts were used. But the version being rather bland in comparison to its precursor, both Sepoys and natives took to spicing up the new meal with *bagoong alamang*.

Does the name kare-kare derive from curry? Most likely not. It is hardly to be expected that the Sepoys and our natives would use the English word curry to refer to their *kari*. Both probably did not even know this word. And while it is true that in Tagalog, repeating a word means "like," kare-kare would still most probably be more "like kari" than "like curry." And there are nuances to the repetition of words in Tagalog such that *bale-bale* does not mean "like" but "worth it," and *bali-bali* means "broken into pieces." Consider too that the Sepoys may have referred to their sauce using the original term *kaikaari* which is certainly closer to kare-kare than curry.

Why would kare-kare not likely be derived from Thai, Malaysian or Indonesian curries? Well, for one thing, it is not spicy like the latter which normally have quite a kick. Were it consequent to the latter, why is it not spicy when it would have been facile for our natives and the Sepoys to have gotten the same spices the latter use as these were already known to exist in our shores and did not require as much effort to find as did the more exotic Indian-named equivalents?

For another, and perhaps the most important reason, kare-kare does not employ coconut milk, which all the others do. We have all the coconuts in the world. Should we not have used coconut in kare-kare if we really copied this from the stated Southeast Asian curry varieties?

Not in Mindanao

Also, if kare-kare were indeed influenced by Thai, Malay or Indonesian cookery, should it not be more abundantly popular in the southern Philippines, which is a closer neighbor to these countries than the Southern Tagalog region? I have hardly seen kare-kare served in Zamboanga, Davao or any other part of Mindanao.

In fact, I still have to see a *karinderia* or a *karihan*, or, for that matter, a *karindera* in the Southern Philippines. As is obvious, the first word extends from *kari* through the Tagalogs' penchant for Hispanizing native words by adding the suffix "eria" to a native word to connote "a place where some good or service can be acquired" in line with the Spanish construction of the words like *panaderia* to mean bakery from *pan*—bread—and *lavanderia* meaning laundry from *lavar*—to wash. Hence, *panciteria*, a place where one can buy or eat *pancit*.

I wish you would dwell on other culinary histories in your column as this is certainly a major factor in the appreciation of food. Knowing its origins, relevant and even trivial facets adds flavor to the taste of food, doesn't it?

Dearest Tito Ricky,

It remains both my honor and privilege to be read by you. Know that I truly appreciate your having gone out of your way to do this research for me.

Here's a toast to the very essence of our existence... Living, loving, learning and, never the least, to good food and to eating well!

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

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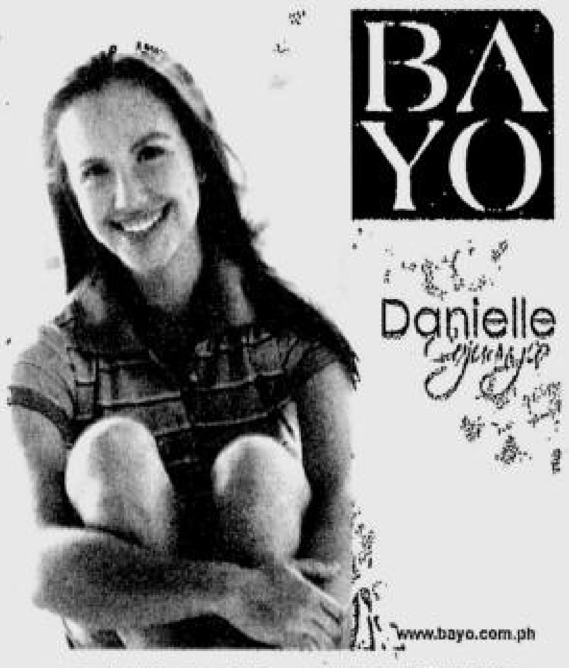

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Breakfast at SM Megamall, 7 am

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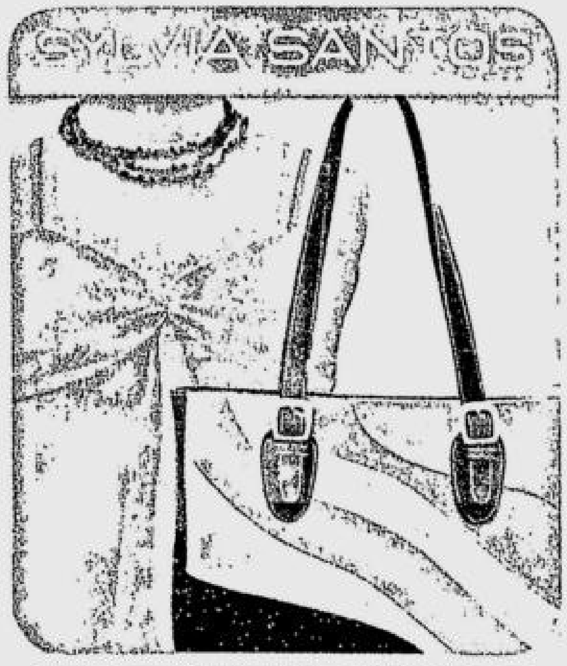
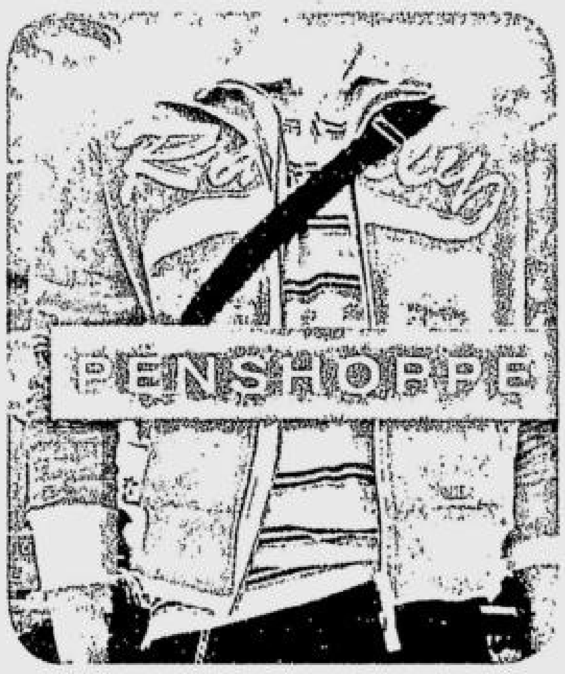
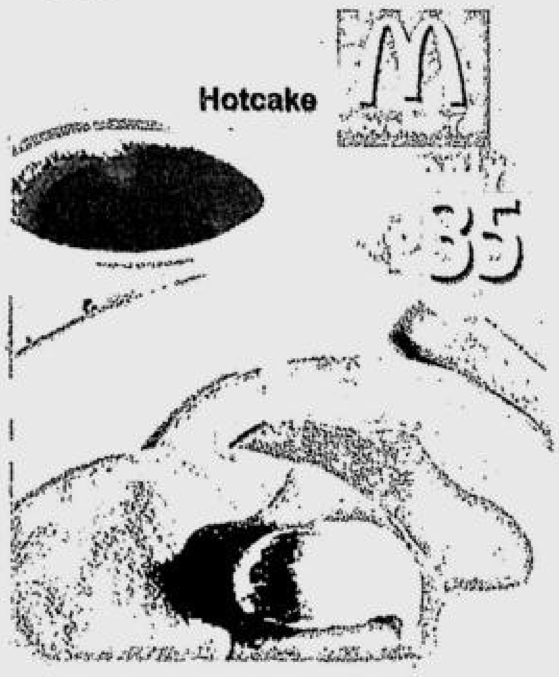
STARBUCKS COFFEE
SEATTLE'S BEST COFFEE
Mocha Hot choco
Ham & Cheese Croissant
Cinnabon Classic



SYLVIA SANTOS

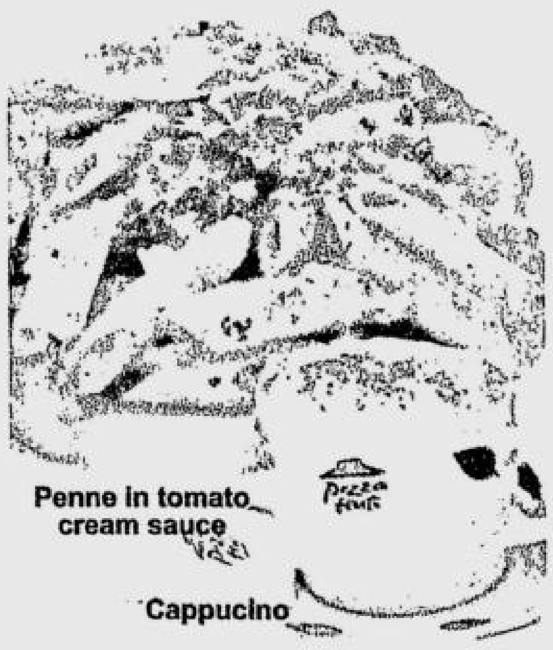




Red Ribbon
Tocino Meal

AMERICAN BLVD.

TG
TAN-GAN. Knits no limits.



Penne in tomato cream sauce
Pizza Hut
Cappucino

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in Megamall

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FUNFEAST NA, MAY FREEBIES PA!
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Tatang Kain Pinoy... No.1 sa
Goldilocks

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Shrimp Siomai

Mega savings

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decorate snoopy's doghouse and get a chance to win EXCITING PRIZES
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5221, Series of 2005

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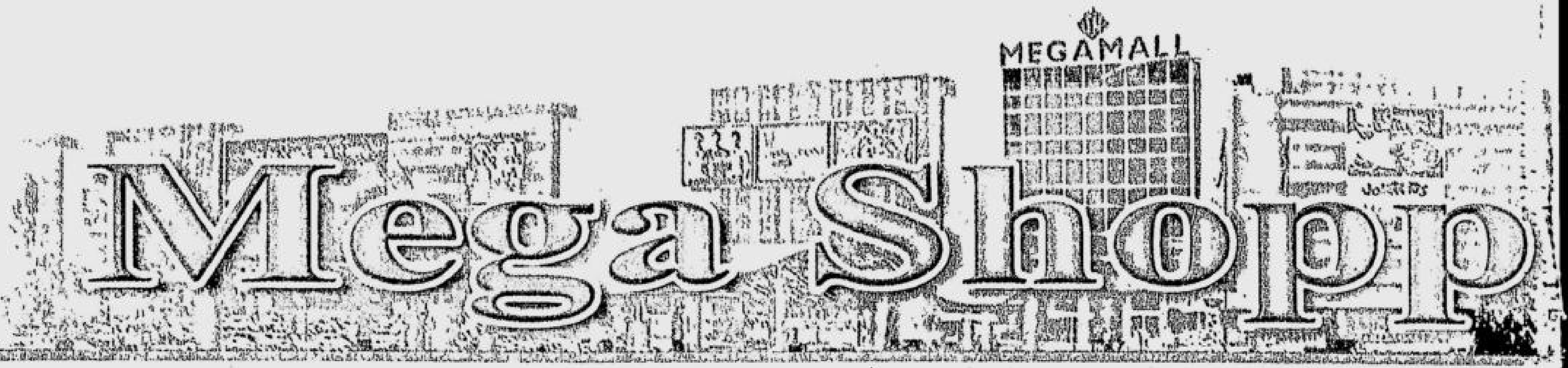
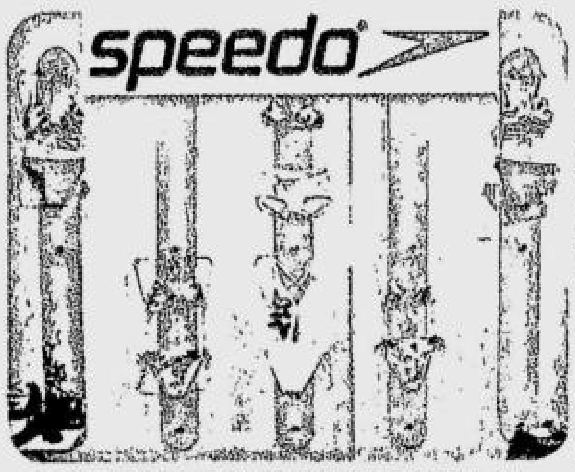
MEGAMALL
ORTIGAS

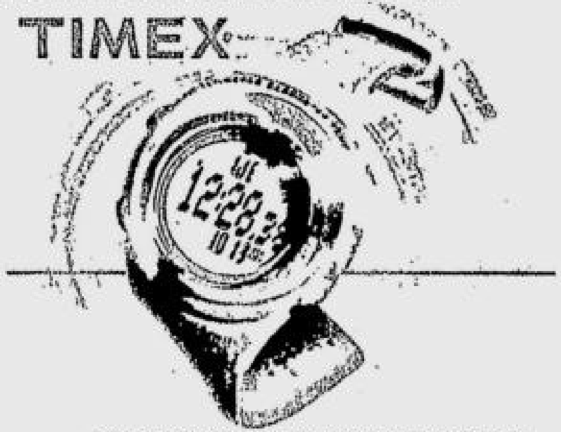
Mega Shopp



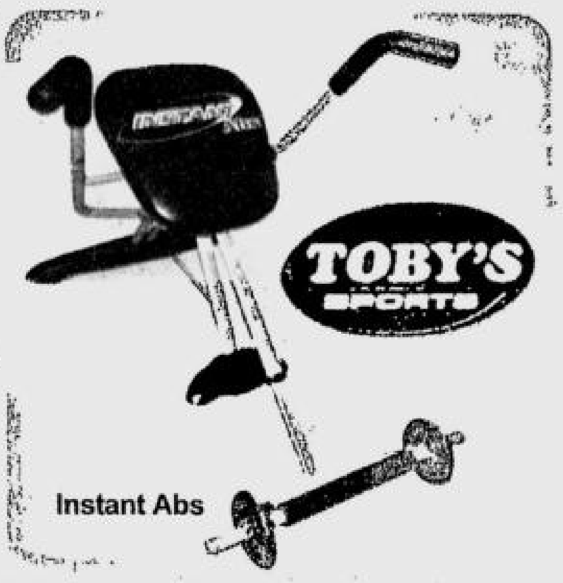
sporty and fashionable



Siuvoni
COLLECTIONS



EXPEDITION ADVENTURE TECH
ALTIMETER | BAROMETER | THERMOMETER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VIA VENETTO

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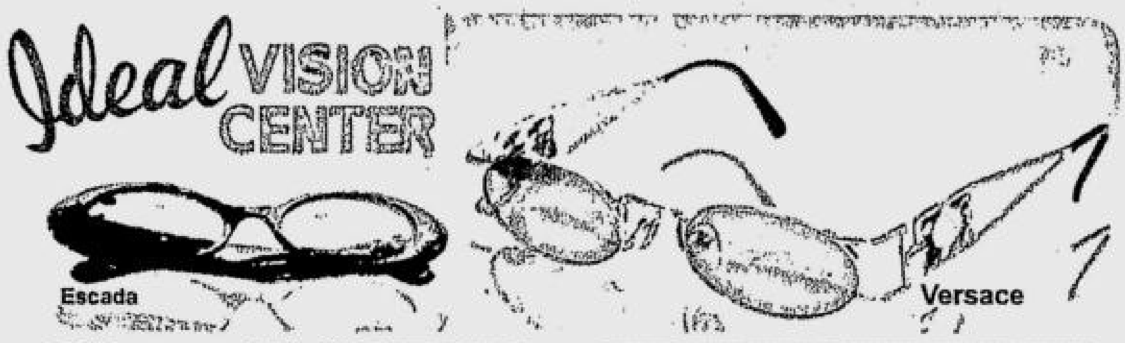
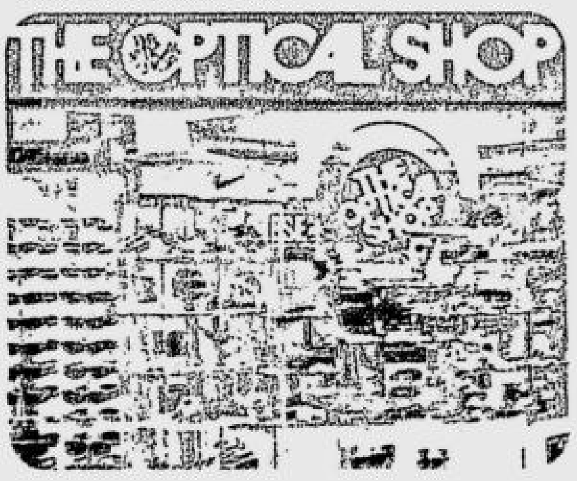


Escada

Versace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15% off your total bill on your 3rd return visit

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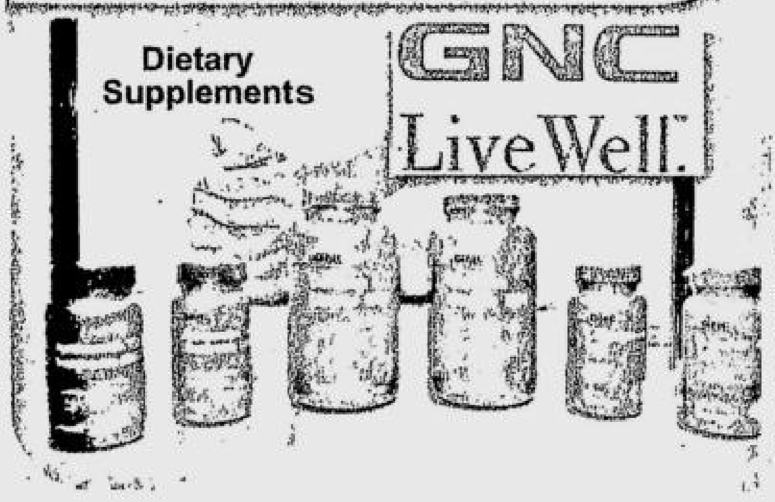
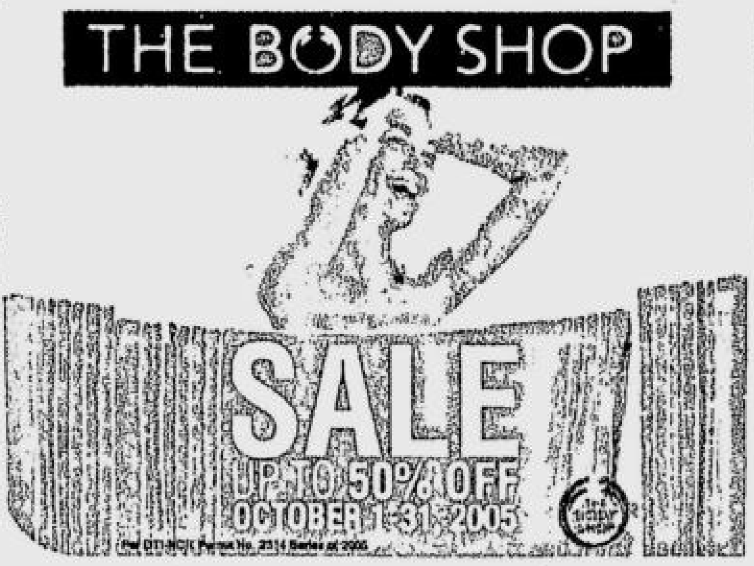

GNC
LiveWell.

Dietary Supplements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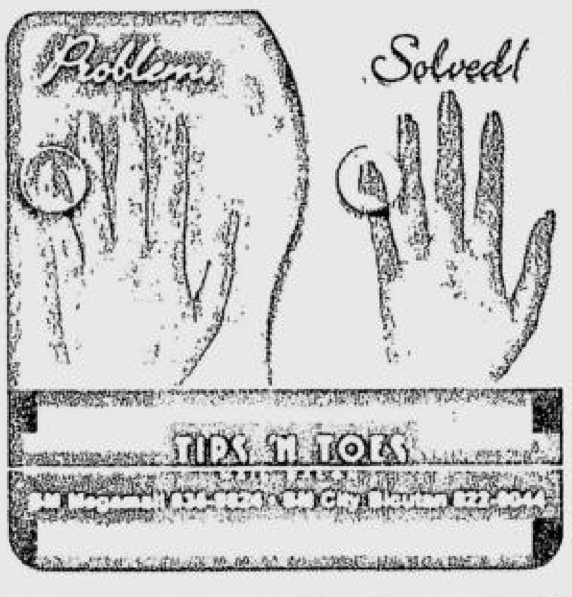
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* Extended mall hours 10am - 11pm

50% off

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ing Weekend

ICE SKATING RINK

SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS

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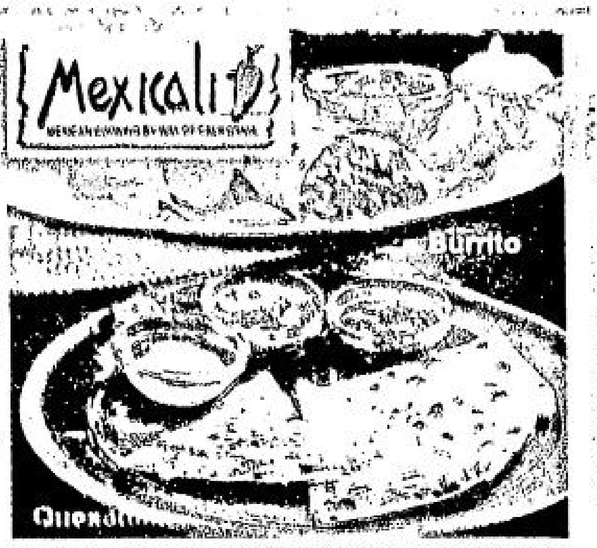
Spaghetti Factory
Spaghetti Red Seafood

Dencio's
Megastrip B, SM Megamall

Gyoza
Tempura Bento
小諸そば
KOMORO SOBA


Mexicali
Burrito
Quesadilla

PAY for LESS PARTY DAYS
ONE IS FREE
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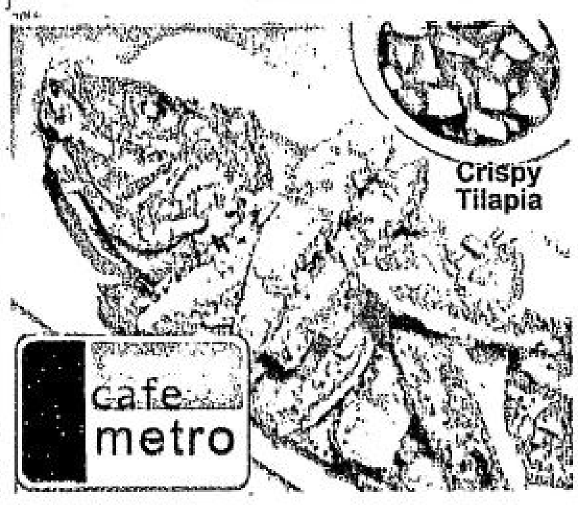
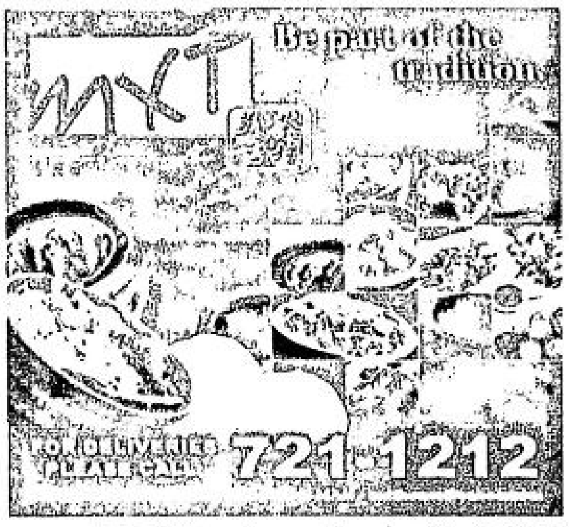
MINIMUM OF 20 PERSONS
Saisaki

Tom Yam Goong
Krua Thai


Crispy Tilapia
cafe metro


MAX'S
Be part of the tradition
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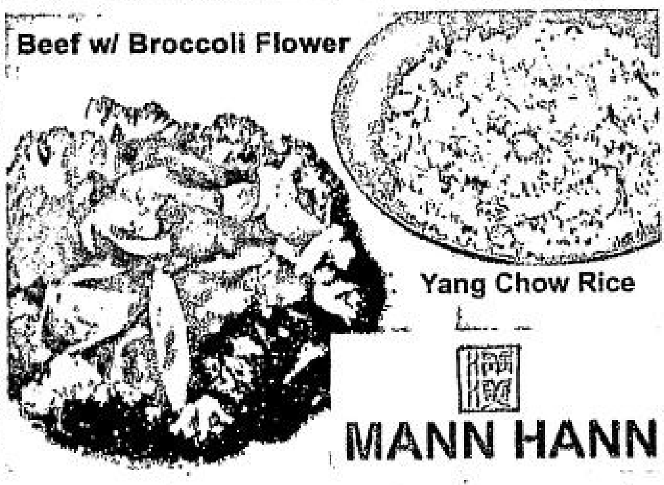
Bakahan at Manukan
P125

良品優の
AJI ICHIBAN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MANN HANN

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冬陽 火鍋
TONG YANG

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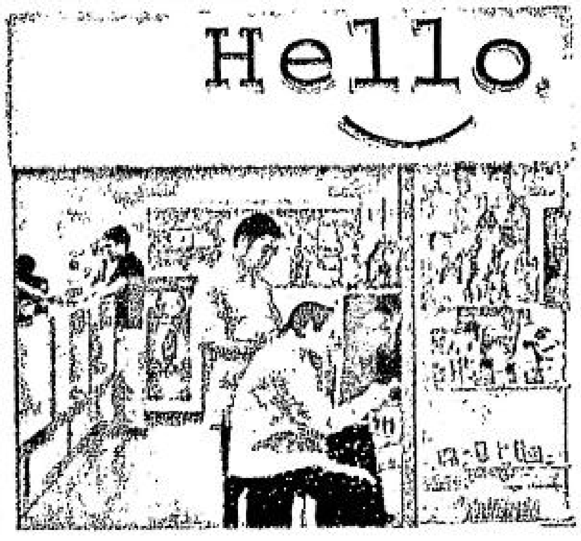
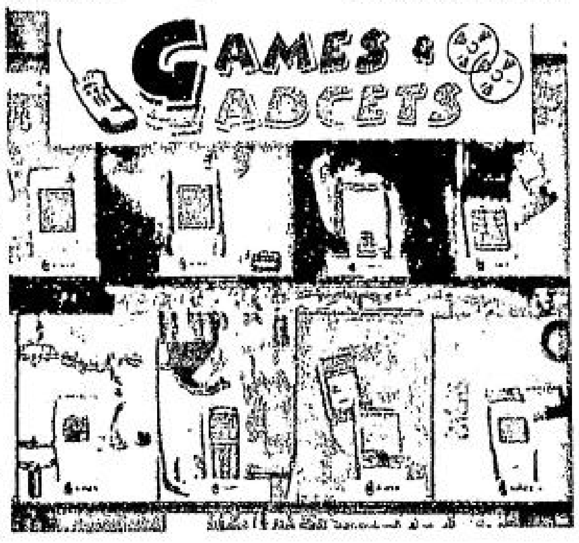
TV GAMES
GameBoy Advance

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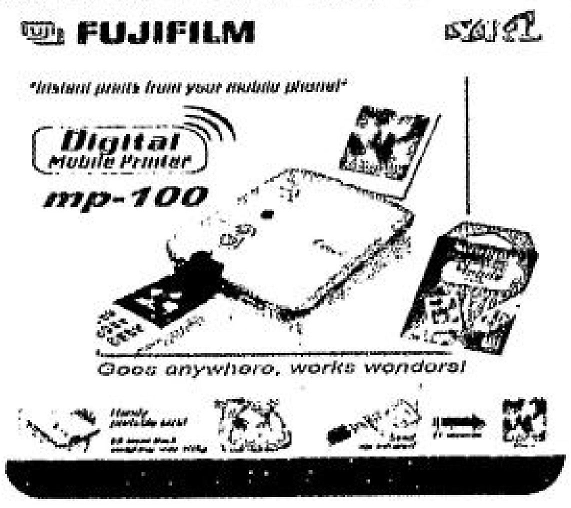
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SM
SUPERMALLS

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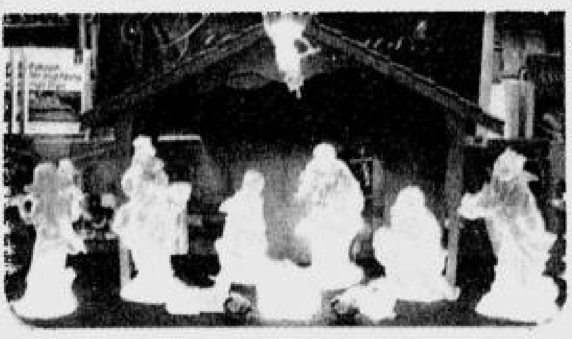
Blue Magic
Stuffed toys

BOOK WAGON

ST PAULS



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get a chance to
WIN one of 5
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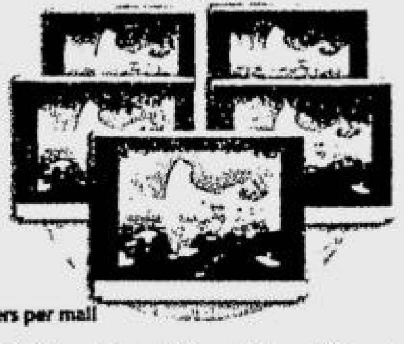

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entertainment
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SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS

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Molino, Bacoor, Cavite
Stub No. 001415
3. Norma Brizuela
Ayala Alabang Village
Stub No. 010210
4. Elsie S. Lilge
Don Bosco, Parañaque City
Stub No. 015775
5. Esmeliano Castillo
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City
Stub No. 023165

1. Consulascion O. Pasaylo
1157 Natividad Lopez St.
Ermita, Manila
Stub No. 027798
2. Chona Espiritu
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3. Nestor P. Malubag
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Ermita, Manila
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4. Arvin Liquigan
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Brownies
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Watsons
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